



# International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

# News

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Editor: David W. Warne

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## Editorial

“Organise an ISCB Conference? Yes, no problem.” Having just about completed that (we’ve finalised the last details of the accounts today), I’m very pleased to have finished it and overcome many small problems along the way. The conference week went so well, I can even say I thoroughly enjoyed it! Read more on p.4.

Results of the Election for the new ExCom can be found on p.31.

You will also find details of the next 2 conferences in Alexandroupolis and Copenhagen.

Thanks to the contributors to this News: John Whitehead, Harbajan Chadha-Boreham, Emmanuel Lesaffre, Harry Southworth and the book reviewers, the NG representatives, Julia Singer, Ewa Kawalec and Zdenek Valenta, and the new CAS and SCA chairs, Julia Singer and KyungMann Kim, ISCB28 SPC Chair Mike Kenward and ISCB29 LOC Chair Bjarne Nielsen

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## ISCB Membership

A special "Welcome" to the 311 of you who joined or rejoined ISCB by attending ISCB27 in Geneva!

		end	end	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Nov	Nov	Dec	Nov	Nov	Nov	May	Nov
		89	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	06
*=host of	conference																	
	Total	261	596	715	698	725	702	685	729	818	797	837	825	756	758	620	433	808
	# Countries	23	32	32	31	33	34	37	37	41	40	45	41	40	38	39	35	40
1.	UK	50	90	176*	120	144	121	128	169*	135	151	153	141	190*	140	109	62	133
2.	Germany	30	67	75	84	71	78	72	70	186*	90	87	77	61	57	51	34	73
3.	USA	18	45	40	39	41	40	79*	66	76	77	89	78	75	57	51	33	67
4.	France	30	52	62	50	73	67	52	52	49	53	37	93*	31	41	30	13	57
5.	Switzerland	14	25	22	80*	33	29	24	25	23	18	23	26	22	23	23	16*	55*
6.	Hungary [NatGrp]	1	21	17	18	19	25*	27	29	29	33	34	41	48	42	38*	50	50
7.	Poland [NatGrp]		11	11	24	24	30	21	19	26	34	37	41	41	43	40	42	49
8.	Netherlands	14*	30	38	33	36	29	31	39	35	33	38	39	33	87*	35	16	44
9.	Denmark	4	58*	38	31	30	32	26	35	38	39	36	46	41	37	37	26	40
10.	Romania [NatGrp]						2			4	1	1	1	19	21	30	28	28
11.	Sweden	23	51	53	54	58	64	51	45	38	44	88*	50	36	34	24	15	23
12.	Belgium	13	22	27	30	30	32	35	29	25	33	36	33	23	27	24	15	23
13.	Italy	16	33	37	32	32	33	26	33	26	63*	29	25	15	25	15	9	23
14.	Czech. Rep. [NatGrp]			1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	17	17
15.	Japan	2	6	7	5	7	4	10	13	20	12	11	10	10	10	17	6	17
16.	Austria	4	9	11	13	11	16	13	11	15	18	15	13	16	17	15	4	14
17.	Norway	13	18	25	22	12	18	10	10	11	10	16	16	12	14	12	7	13
18.	Canada	6	12	14	14	11	13	15	14	9	9	10	14	16	8	12	6	12
19.	Australia	6	9	11	6	9	8	11	9	10	12	8	9	14	8	6	6	11
20.	Spain	10	12	18	12	46*	23	14	16	12	11	11	8	7	15	5	3	9
21.	Finland	2	7	7	9	9	9	7	5	10	9	18	11	7	11	10	3	6
22.	Singapore							3	6	4	5	8	5	7	2	4	1	6
23.	Slovenia		1	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	3	3	4
24.	Israel	1	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	10	13	10	7	8	3	2	4
25.	South Africa		1	4	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3
26.	Greece		1	1	1				1	1	3	1	6	1	2	2	2	3
27.	Turkey		1	1						1				1	2	2	1	3
28.	Iran						1	1					1	1	4	1	1	3
29.	Thailand		1	1		1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2					3
30.	Malaysia					2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	2
31.	India		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2
32.	Slovakia												1			1	2	2
33.	New Zealand		1		1		2	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	1	2	1	2
34.	Russia					1	3	3	3	2	2	1	4	3	2	1	1	1
35.	Mexico						1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
36.	Portugal	1	3	5	2	2	2	2	5	5	3	4	3	3	1	1	1	1
37.	Estonia											2		1		1		1
38.	Saudi Arabia											1						1
39.	Indonesia						1											1
40.	Sri Lanka																	1
41.	Cuba								2	2	2	2	2		2	1		
42.	Taiwan										1	1	1	1	1	1		
43.	United Arab Emirates															1		
44.	Malawi												1	1	1			
45.	Ireland	1	2	3	4	3	4	4	2	3	2	3		1	1			
46.	South Korea					3		1						1				
47.	Colombia							1	1		1			1				
48.	China		1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2					
49.	Croatia									1	1		1					
50.	Gambia												1					
51.	Lithuania											2						
52.	Argentina											1						
53.	Brazil					2						1						
54.	Kuwait	1										1						
55.	Sudan											1						
56.	Ukraine									1		1						
57.	Egypt											1						
58.	Pakistan								1	1	1							
59.	Philippines									1								
60.	Zimbabwe				1													
61.	Kenya		1	1														
62.	Oman	1																

## **ISCB President's Report for 2006 and Farwell**

From John Whitehead

This year, our Annual Scientific Meeting took place in the beautiful city of Geneva, and it was a great success. One recurring theme of the programme was the topical issue of adaptive designs for clinical trials, and this formed the subject of the President's invited speaker, Professor Peter Bauer, as well as featuring in other invited and contributed sessions. Being in their home city, the conference included a fascinating session on the statistics compiled by the World Health Organisation. The Society's Subcommittee for Statistics in Dentistry organised their own special session, while other recurring topics such as regulatory affairs and less usual ones such as subfertility statistics were all covered. Away from the lectures and the posters, the social events were also successful, the highlight being the dinner cruise on Lake Geneva [Léman]. The conference attracted a record number of participants and has made a comfortable profit. This was all made possible by the efforts of participants, presenters, organisers and especially the Scientific Programme Committee and its Chair; Lutz Edler and the Local Organising Committee and its Chair; David Warne. David in particular conceived the idea of bringing ISCB to Geneva many years ago, and worked tirelessly to fulfil that ambition.

Now I have reached the end of two years as the Society's President and eight years as one of the four Officers. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the Society that was responsible for the first international conference that I attended and gave me the opportunity

for my first major collaboration with a clinical scientist, who heard one of my early presentations. Since then, ISCB has been a natural choice to recommend to students and colleagues looking for an audience for their work. I have been fortunate to serve as an Officer with effective, responsible and friendly colleagues, including Nancy Geller, Simon Day and Maria Grazia Valsecchi as President and my current colleagues Emmanuel Lesaffre, Norbert Victor and Harbajan Chadha-Boreham. I have also received tremendous support, both as Treasurer and as President, from the ISCB Permanent Office and in particular from Rita Schou who runs it so effectively for us. The Society will be in good hands with the newly elected ExCom and under the leadership of my successor, Emmanuel Lesaffre. They are well aware of the greatest challenge to this and all learned societies: the need to attract and involve members in an age where the pressures on all of us are increasing. The success of the Geneva meeting in attracting participants and in improving our financial balance is a good start to this constant need for renewal.

Now that I have retired from the office of ISCB President, I look forward to spending more time on the beach. The beach in question is, of course, that adjacent to the Thraki Palace Hotel in Alexandroupolis. From time to time I shall pop into the exciting conference to be held there. I hope to see you all at ISCB 28!

A Happy New Year to all!

## **ISCB27 Geneva 2006: Poster Awards**

From Lutz Edler and David W. Warne

A total of 88 poster boards were put up at the conference in Geneva, and apart from a few which were missing the quality of the posters was very high. Three groups of posters were created and a prize from Wiley of £250 of books was awarded to the best in each category. We would like to thank the 3 pairs of reviewers and congratulate the winners.

Category	Topic	Judges	Winner
A: Methods and Applications of Clinical Trials	Regulatory Affairs, Design and Sample Size, Simulation, Survival, Meta-Analysis	Stephen Senn (UK), Martina Mittlböck (A)	Jenő Reiczigel, Zsolt Abonyi-Tóth Confidence Sets For Two Binomial Proportions
B: Modelling and Explanatory Methods for Diagnosis and Prognosis	Advanced Variable Selection, Prognostic Models, Biomarkers, Genomics and PGx	KyungMann Kim (USA), Andreas Ziegler (D)	Hendriek C. Boshuizen, Mariapaola Lanti, Alessandro Menotti, Joanna Moschandreas, Hanna Tolonen, Aulikki Nissinen, Srecko Nedeljkovic, Antony Kafatos, Daan Kromhout Accounting For Measurement Error In A Two-Step Procedure Using Multivariate Models
C. Public Health, WHO Themes, Epidemiology and Risk Analysis	Screening and Prevention, Causal Models, Biologics, Spatial Models, Subfertility, WHO Themes, Competing Risks	Elisabeth Svensson (S), Klaus Dietz (D)	Gillian A. Lancaster, Melissa Gladstone, Ken Maleta, Ed Mtitimila, Rosalind Smyth, Per Ashorn Standardisation Of A Culturally Appropriate Developmental Assessment Tool For Screening Children In A Rural African Population

## **ISCB27 Geneva 2006: Papers for Statistics in Medicine**

From Lutz Edler, Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee

After the completion of the conference, 40 papers were submitted to be refereed for inclusion in a special ISCB conference issue of Statistics in Medicine, probably to appear in December 2007.

## ***Organise an ISCB Conference? Yes, No Problem (Part 2)***

The Editor's first ISCB conference was at Cambridge, way back in 1993... and that year, Simon Day was kind enough to write an article describing his experiences as chair of the LOC (Local Organising Committee). Have things changed since then? Have we made progress, developed new ideas? A year after my first article (ISCB News 40, December 2005), I have to admit there was a lot more details to learn than I ever guessed...

Looking back 12 months, it was a great relief to see the December ISCB News with the Geneva Brochure. At last, the Conference had not only a plan, but most of the events were taking shape. I worked out a budget which predicted that if we attracted 350 paying participants, we would make a profit for ISCB of CHF 34,135. This was a figure I continued to be rather sceptical about as it was based on so many unknowns.

In the first quarter of 2006, we faced a number of challenges, the main one being getting people to submit abstracts. Considerable effort was made contacting statistical societies worldwide and this seemed to draw a lot of interest. But by 12 March, 3 days before the deadline for submission of abstracts, we had only received about 50. I spent in hospital, so it was a very pleasant surprise to find on my return home that we had now got a total of 200 abstracts in the database! Extending the deadline a further 14 days produced another 50 abstracts. The total of 250 was much more than planned...

For the next 3 months, the attention passed to SPC Chair, Lutz Edler and his dedicated team of reviewers. The standard was indeed very high and many excellent papers couldn't all be fitted into the oral programme. Indeed, Lutz and I were thinking of all possible ways to fit people in: the first session each day was brought forward 30 minutes, the lunch break was shortened by 30 minutes and the day was prolonged by 30. And still Lutz wanted more slots for speakers! So we added a few more parallel contributed sessions.

The Invited and Special Sessions sorted themselves out quite nicely. Many of the speakers could only attend for certain days, yet when I tried a first solution to fitting them all in, 10 sessions in 12 time slots, it all worked perfectly.

Fitting all the talks together into 27 Contributed Sessions was no easy task and Lutz had at least 3 attempts before we were happy. And then we had some dropouts and a couple of promotions of posters to oral presentations. What else changed? Some speakers couldn't attend each day and their sessions had to be moved to accommodate them. Finally, we tried to put these sessions near the corresponding Invited and Special ones, which again worked nicely as different periods in the conference had different themes.

By the middle of June, we had started to have a reasonable number of people registering, around 200, but I made a big effort to remind people to register early before the deadline for the cheaper fee. Perhaps I was too good at this as 84% of people paid the lower fee, much more than I expected and budgeted for! In the end, we reached about 430 registrations...

Now, getting people to register wasn't always easy. Some did have great trouble getting funding or visas, and we did our best to help by sending letters of invitation by email or fax. But I have to report that some people had submitted abstracts with no intention of attending the conference, which is not in the spirit of the conference. After reminders were sent, most of these withdrew their abstracts which had been accepted as posters before the Abstract Book was printed, but a few slipped in and were subsequently considered as having been withdrawn, but this caused a few gaps on the poster boards at the conference. But overall, we were pleased not to have many gaps in the oral programme: only 1 person withdrew due to illness and another attended but didn't present.

The strangest things we came across were bogus registrations. You're probably all aware that most spam emails are trying to collect your email address to pester you with more emails. But did you know people do spam conference registrations? We found about 3 or 4 who of course didn't pay any fee, but it was a waste of our time. Most serious, however, were 2 registrations where the fees were apparently paid. A few weeks before the conference was due to start, the people cancelled and asked for a credit card refund. Fortunately, Kuoni were told by the credit card company that the cards had been stolen and no money was sent back. In all these cases, the registrations came from countries we didn't expect to be coming to ISCB, so this should be a warning to future organisers.

The 4 courses were organised very early in the whole scheme of things, yet the material for them arrived quite late which meant some problems getting all the 112 copies printed, copied and bound just before the conference started. All part of the LOC chair's job to do this sort of thing...

The Sunday of the conference started quietly, with only about 100 people to register and things went smoothly until we found 1 course book wasn't printed properly... Kuoni kindly printed the missing pages, but this was a warning to expect the unexpected. I had time to explain to the students who were hired to help the university technician how we were going to handle the presentations and they did a great job, collecting the ppts and pdfs and distributing them to the 4 rooms. During the afternoon, I "took it easy" and attended the 5 hour ExCom meeting, discussing the Society's past, present and future. The courses went extremely well and got excellent ratings on the assessment forms I saw.

## **Organise an ISCB Conference? Yes, No Problem (continued)**

Monday morning was the time we'd feared might turn out to be a bit chaotic. But in fact it turned out very well, as the vast majority of the 423 registered participants had paid their fees and could be "processed" in seconds. Again, the preparation of reminding people to register and pay before the conference had paid off. So we were already for the big start, somewhat early at 0830. This was the Conference Opening, something I'd really wanted to add to the programme. Many people, myself included, whether prior members or not, arrive at ISCB and have little idea what the programme is going to be, and we wanted to outline what was planned and to thank the people who had contributed to the show.

The format of ISCB27 differed from most recent conferences in that the traditional mini-symposium was replaced by 5 "Special" sessions of particular interest to Geneva, and this seemed a great success, at least in terms of the large number of people staying until the end of the last session and Closing on Thursday lunchtime. The 5 Special Sessions were well attended and each lived up to its "special" title. Robust statistics were presented by a Geneva-Sydney panel of speakers. Subfertility statistics is an area I've worked in for almost 12 years for Serono and it's quite unique. The WHO session proved to be well worth waiting for – and I was waiting until the day before to get the speakers' names! Advanced Variable Selection and Multivariable Modelling built on some ideas from one of the courses. Finally, the ISCB SubCommittee on Dentistry had a chance to present a progress report on its work.

The 4 Invited Sessions and President's Invited Sessions were also highlights. Competing Risks was a topic which came up again in the WHO special session. In Drug Sensitivity and Resistance, we heard some alarming forecasts about the risk of pandemics. The Regulatory session comprised 4 fine speakers who gave thought provoking talks. Finally, the Adaptive Clinical Trials session followed on from the President's Invited Session given by Peter Bauer, giving a state-of-the-art review of what's possible and what's being worked on.

But ISCB conferences aren't all work and no play! The social programme was well attended and started with the Monday evening welcome reception at the Uni-Mail conference site with a brief address from President John Whitehead. John is one of a handful of participants who'd joined ISCB at its very first conference, and he welcomed everyone and pointed out how statistics have developed over the years, often through ISCB presentations and their subsequent publication in *Statistics in Medicine*.

Tuesday afternoon was sadly rather wet but various groups set off round Geneva to see the sights (those not hidden behind clouds!). An intrepid band even chose the hiking option taking the train to Nyon and Saint Cergue and they survived the walk to enjoy the fondue meal afterwards. The Conference Dinner was a lake cruise and for a few minutes before the cruise started, we were treated to a fine sunset on the Salève. The 3 course meal was all Swiss, and we were accompanied by some Swiss music and entertained by a Swiss statistician, Stephen Senn.

So I was just a little sad when the conference ended. I had met so many friends and former colleagues from previous conferences, yet had little time to talk with them. Anyway, almost everything had gone off without a hitch and I think most people were very happy with their 4 or 5 days in Geneva.

And still it wasn't over! We were very pleased at the response from oral presentation and poster presenters to the idea of putting their work as pdfs on the conference website. Only a handful of people were unable or unwilling to let this happen, and I hope you've had a chance to look for the talks or posters which most impressed you.

During the last 3 months, I've been working on the accounting with Kuoni. Would it all turn out to be a financial success or an unexpected disaster? This is just as important as having a socially and scientifically satisfying meeting... losing a large amount of money could jeopardise the Society's future. The latest forecast for the balance is CHF 58,825 and, to my huge amazement, a profit of CHF 34,335 i.e. CHF 200 more than forecast a year ago! Perhaps I should have gone into accountancy after all?

I should like to thank various people. The Local Organising Committee was very helpful and supportive, and the Scientific Programme Committee, especially its chair Lutz Edler, did a great job putting together sessions and reviewing the Contributed presentations and posters. We had a successful poster competition mentioned elsewhere in the News (and announcing the winners in the AGM boosted attendance there!). Our Course Providers did a great job with their material and presentations. We had, in the end, a good number of sponsors and advertisers all of whom I'd like to thank, especially our main sponsor, Serono. Kuoni did a great job organising all the tiny details before, during and most importantly after the conference: thanks Steeve, Eléonore and Nathalie.

I now know many of you who attended ISCB27 were newcomers to ISCB and I do hope you'll make it a habit and attend ISCB28 next year in Alexandroupolis and the conferences to come.

Lastly, I'd like to say thank you for allowing me the privilege of organising this event. It was your contributions added to our organisation which made it a memorable and enjoyable conference.

Postscript: I just heard that the CHF 5,000 we set aside for VAT won't have to be paid after all, so the profit will be CHF 39,335, or as the outgoing ISCB Treasurer likes to see it, just under €25,000.

# **MPS** Medical and Pharmaceutical Statistics Research Unit

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES 2007**

**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF READING, UK**

**FOR MEDICAL STATISTICIANS**

### **Week 1**

**5-6 MARCH**

**Proof-of-concept Studies**

*Presenters:*

*John Whitehead, Elsa Valdés-Márquez*

**8-9 MARCH**

**Sample Size Determination in Clinical Trials**

*Presenters:*

*Anne Whitehead, Mark Simmonds*

### **Week 2**

**18-20 JUNE**

**Bayesian Methods for Clinical Trials**

*Presenters:*

*John Whitehead, Mark Simmonds*



**21-22 JUNE**

**Analysing Multiple Failure Time Data  
from Clinical Trials**

*Presenters:*

*Patrick Kelly, Anne Whitehead*

### **Week 3**

**30 OCTOBER**

**Pharmacogenetics**

*Presenters:*

*Patrick Kelly, Yinghui Zhou, John Whitehead*



**31 OCTOBER-1 NOVEMBER**

**Adaptive Designs**

*Presenters:*

*John Whitehead, Kim Bolland, Sue Todd*

**2 NOVEMBER**

**Phase II/III Clinical Trials**

*Presenters: Sue Todd, Patrick Kelly*

**For further information please contact:**

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From Harbajan Chadha-Boreham

Wed 30 August 2006. The meeting started at 1200 (at the lunch break). The agenda of the meeting was:

1. President's report
2. Treasurer's report
3. Subcommittee reports & motions for continuation:  
Subcommittee on Statistics in Regulatory Affairs,  
Subcommittee on National Groups,  
Subcommittee on Education,  
Subcommittee on Communications,  
Subcommittee on Student Conference Awards,  
Subcommittee on Statistics in Dentistry,  
Subcommittee on Conference Organising,  
Subcommittee on ISCB Membership
4. Future ISCB meetings
5. Any other business

## 1. President's Report (John Whitehead)

I thank the Local Organising Committee and the Scientific Programme Committee, and particularly their Chairs, David Warne and Lutz Edler, for their hard work.

This year, three of our Subcommittees are under new Chairs. Michael Schemper founded the National Groups Subcommittee, and put enormous effort and energy into setting up our Groups in Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic. Michael also instituted the Conference Awards for Scientists to encourage participation by statisticians from the countries of Eastern Europe and the Third World. Both schemes have been very successful, last year's meeting in Szeged being just one fruit of this activity. Michael is now standing down from chairing the National Groups Subcommittee, and handing over to Julia Singer, who as an energetic member of the Subcommittee and leading player within the Hungarian National Group is in many ways his natural successor. Marie Reilly has handed over the Chair of the Student Conference Awards Subcommittee to KyungMann Kim. Marie has capably directed this valuable and successful programme for four years, introducing new and promising statisticians to our Society, and I am sure that KyungMann will carry on the good work. Finally, Carol Redmond has stepped down from the Education Subcommittee. Carol organised the presentation of courses in various "ISCB target countries", and these were much appreciated. She has handed over to Rumana Omar who, rather bravely as a newcomer to the Executive Committee, has agreed to take this on. I would like to thank Michael, Marie and Carol for their valuable service to the Society, and Julia, KyungMann and Rumana for stepping into their shoes.

A new Subcommittee, approved at the last AGM, is that for Membership. Emmanuel Lesaffre chairs this group, with the objective of widening and increasing membership of the Society.

At this conference, we have a new National Group, representing the Czech Republic. The Society was approached last year by Czech medical statisticians with a request to set up a National Group. Following our electronic postal ballot the group was approved and now, six months after the vote of approval, it officially comes into existence. The National Representative is Zdenek Valenta from the EuroMISE Centre of the Institute of Computer Science, Charles University, and

he has been instrumental in making the necessary arrangements.

Preparations are already under way for ISCB 2007 in Greece. This meeting will take place on the beach - or at least very close to it, in the resort town of Alexandroupolis. Preliminary work is also going on in preparation for the 2008 meeting in Copenhagen. These future arrangements will be presented during the AGM.

A number of the Society's Officers will reach the end of their terms of office at the end of 2006, and so later this year there will be elections for a new Vice-President (who will succeed as President in 2009), a new Treasurer and a new Secretary. The seats on the Executive Committee will also be contested, although I hope that ExCom members who joined in 2005 will wish to stand again for a second two-year term. The nomination forms for will be available at the conference desk and the complete forms should be handed to Elia Biganzoli during the Geneva meeting.

## 2. Treasurer's Report (Norbert Victor)

My Treasurer's Report (Appendix 1) was presented together with the official ISCB Financial Report 2005 (Appendix 2) at the Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting on 27 Aug. and at the Annual General Meeting of the society (AGM) on 30 Aug. 2006. The Financial Report was audited and fully approved by the Ernst & Young Statsautoriseret Revisionsaktieselskab on 9 Aug. 2006. Both reports were accepted by the ExCom and approved unanimously by the AGM.

In order to give all ISCB members the possibility to comprehend the explanation for the position "Deficit of cash flow in connection with the conference 2005", we also give the financial report of the Szeged congress treasurer, Julia Singer, as Appendix 3. This report was accepted by the ExCom stating that a report according to ISCB-guidelines could not be produced as finances were handled by Convention & Travel Hungary (C&T) who presented an unclear report with some dubious positions. Hence, Julia could not do better, and our acceptance of Julia's report does not mean that we regard the tax positions as correct. However, a pursuit of the matter would not justify efforts and expenses, so the ExCom decided not to follow up the case. The audit for the congress finances was done by our member, Maria Matusz (Appendix 4). She states that the account processing and documentation of expenditures are correct and according to bookkeeping rules with one exception: the absence of documents confirming the tax payments.

The ExCom also decided on the yearly budget for 2007 (Appendix 5). This budget is very similar to the previous one, which proved to be a helpful guideline. Deviations of the 2005 accounts from the budget are small excepting the Szeged deficit.

My proposition to maintain the membership fees for 2007 on the current level was unanimously adopted by the AGM.

**3. Subcommittee Reports**

The eight ISCB Subcommittee Chairs had reported on their activity at the ExCom meeting; the written reports contain also the terms of reference and list of members. The Subcommittee Chairs presented their reports briefly at the AGM as follows:

**3.1 Jorgen Seldrup on Statistics in Regulatory Affairs SC**

As Jorgen Seldrup was not able to attend the Geneva ISCB, Harbajan Chadha-Boreham presented his report. SIRA submitted comments to the EMEA on "Guideline on clinical trials in small populations". ISCB members were invited to send comments to Jorgen regarding the "Reflection paper on Methodological Issues in Confirmatory Clinical Trials with Flexible Design and Analysis Plan" and "Guideline on Reporting Results of Population Pharmacokinetic Analyses". The SIRA SC members who met in Geneva were Martin Schumacher, Christoph Gerlinger (a new member) and Harbajan Chadha-Boreham. They discussed mainly the "Flexible Designs" Guideline and decided to send some comments to Jorgen. Stephen Senn resigned after several years of active service to SIRA SC. ISCB members are invited to join SIRA; if interested they should contact Jorgen Seldrup. The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**3.2 Julia Singer on National Groups SC**

Michael Schemper retired as Chair of the National Groups SC and Julia Singer is the new Chair. A total of 14 applications for the Conference Awards for Scientists for the Geneva ISCB meeting were received. The National Groups Subcommittee voted to select the following 6 winning entries: Märt Möls (EST), Krisztina Boda (HU), Yasemin Genc (Turkey), Ewa Kawalec (PL), Robert Ntozini (Zimbabwe) and Roshini Sooriyarachchi (Sri Lanka). The winners received awards from Julia Singer during the AGM. The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**3.3 Rumana Omar on Education SC**

The short course on 'Linear Mixed Effects Models and Meta-Analysis: basic concepts and applications' was conducted in Poland in June 2006. It was attended by 34 participants from Poland, Hungary, Russia and Turkey. It was very successful. There has been some interest shown from South America for short courses, in particular from Chile. A list of short courses that had been offered at the ISCB conferences in the past was produced. It was sent to Erik Cobo and to the interested group in Chile. Although the terms and conditions state that the ISCB short courses should use a standard questionnaire to obtain course feedback from the course participants, no such questionnaire was available. A feedback questionnaire has been prepared recently and was used for the Polish course. The SC met in Geneva and discussed the needs for training. The following activities were planned over the next few months

- To construct a database of ISCB pre-conference courses offered during the last 8 years. This could be a potential list from which the target countries could select courses.
- WHO presenters at the ISCB conference in Geneva would be contacted to see if there was any request/scope to offer courses on Randomised Trials in target countries.
- ISCB National groups would be requested to investigate demand/scope for courses in target countries.
- A session devoted to presentations on how to teach statistics is to be proposed for one of the forthcoming ISCB meetings.
- Information would be placed on the ISCB website regarding guidelines for writing protocols and reporting studies in medical research.
- Prepare a paragraph about the career of a biostatistician with some useful links to courses/ job sites for the ISCB website.

It was also decided to expand the role of the education sub-committee to support workshops/courses in developed countries. This could be in the form of underwriting a proportion of the cost of running the course, whereby ISCB would receive a share of any profit made from the workshops/courses. The organisers of courses/workshops would be required to submit a proposal with a business plan.

The proposal would be assessed by the members of the education sub-committee and then by the ISCB ExCom. Rumana Omar invited ISCB members to contact her if they are interested in presenting courses. The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**3.4 David Warne on Communications SC**

David Warne pointed that the main work of the Communications is manifested in the ISCB Newsletter and Website. John Whitehead thanked David Warne for his efficiency in producing the Newsletter and taking care of the website. The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**3.5 Marie Reilly on Student Conference Awards**

Nine entries were received this year for the Student Conference Awards, which is lower than previous years. KyungMann Kim and Marie Reilly will step up the publicising efforts. The SC selected three winners: Arnošt Komárek (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium), Havi Murad (Bar Ilan University, Israel) and Christopher Nelson (University of Leicester, UK). KyungMann Kim had enjoyed his dinner out with the student winners. The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**3.6 Emmanuel Lesaffre on Statistics in Dentistry SC**

Emmanuel Lesaffre reported that the SC had examined the usefulness of extending the CONSORT guidelines to clustered data on split-mouth studies. The findings are presented in a manuscript that will be circulated to the ISCB members prior to submission to a dental journal. The SC had also organised a special session on statistics in dentistry at the Geneva ISCB meeting. The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**3.7 Harbajan Chadha-Boreham on Conference Organising SC**

The Financial Section of the Conference Organising Guidelines was improved during the year to give further directions regarding local taxation rules and to emphasise the need for a treasurer on Local Organising Committee who has a unique responsibility of managing finances. The Conference Organising Guidelines have been put on the ISCB Homepage for future conference organisers. The SC met in Geneva and identified the need to improve guidance on sponsorship of ISCB meetings. One SC member retired (Maria Grazia Valsecchi, Past President) and two new members joined (Giota Touloumi and David Warne) in 2005. Elia Biganzoli announced his retirement during the Geneva meeting and was thanked for his contributions to the SC activities. The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.

**3.8 Emmanuel Lesaffre on ISCB Membership SC**

Emmanuel Lesaffre stated that the purpose of the ISCB Membership SC was to enlarge membership. The SC has produced a Guideline on "Scientific Programme Content" in order to increase the scientific appeal to wider audience. This guideline was sent to Greece and Denmark for future conference organising. In order to widen the geographical catchments, the SC sent out letters to various societies. Although this was initially taken to be spam by some people, we eventually had some positive reactions. We need to improve contact with Africa and Australia and anyone who is interested should contact Emmanuel. Also we are searching for ways to make the society more attractive to students. The motion for continuation of the Subcommittee was approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM.



**4. Future ISCB Meetings****4.1 ISCB28 (2007) in Alexandroupolis (Greece) by Giota Touloumi**

Giota Touloumi reported on the advances made on organising the ISCB28 meeting to be held from 29 July to 02 August, 2007 in Alexandroupolis. The venue is a new deluxe hotel in a large complex on the beach with reasonably priced accommodation. Transport from the hotel to the city centre will be free. The Local Organising Committee and the Scientific Committee have been formed. Pre-conference courses and invited sessions have been fixed; the mini-symposium will be on "Environmental Epidemiology" and the President's invited speaker is David Spiegelhalter. The first announcement has been circulated at the Geneva meeting and the website is [www.iscb2007.gr](http://www.iscb2007.gr). There are many exciting places for excursions in and around Alexandroupolis. Giota invited the ISCB members to come and enjoy ISCB28 and also the beaches in Alexandroupolis during the summer of 2007.

**4.2 ISCB29 (2008) in Copenhagen (Denmark) by Bjarne Nielsen**

Bjarne Nielsen presented the plans for the ISCB29 meeting in Copenhagen, where the venue is the Royal Academy of Arts. The Local Organising Committee has been formed and the Scientific Programme Committee is in place with Philip Hougaard as Chairperson. The accommodation will not be expensive, as the LOC has been working hard to find affordable prices. An interesting social programme has also been planned.

**4.3 ISCB30 (2009) Prague (Czech Republic) by Zdenek Valenta**

Zdenek Valenta had presented his well-prepared initial plans at the ExCom meeting and the advanced plans will be presented for formal approval at the ExCom in 2007.

**5. Any other business**

Lutz Edler announced that ISCB27 had received 3 donations of £250 from Wiley for 3 awards. A committee of six persons had selected winning posters from three categories. Lutz presented the award certificates to three winners: Jenö Reiczigel, Hendriek C. Boshuizen and Gillian Lancaster.

**Closing:**

No questions were raised from the floor. John Whitehead invited the members to contact him if there are any questions during the year, which will be discussed at the ExCom teleconferences. The meeting closed at 1320. About 120 ISCB members attended the AGM.

**Appendix 1: Treasurer's Report**

The financial report for 2005 is attached; it was presented and discussed at the ExCom and at the AGM. Financial Situation: At the end of 2005, the society's capital stood at €74,982.64, compared with €88,199.49 at the end of 2004. This loss of more than €13,000 (almost 15%!) will lead ISCB into a financially difficult situation, as we have now arrived at the lowest equity carried forward at the end of a year since 2000.

Main reason for this loss is a "deficit" from the Szeged conference and the fact – mentioned in my earlier reports – that we cannot pay our regular expenses only by membership fees, and therefore, we need a surplus at our conferences for stable balances. The report on congress finances by Julia Singer shows that – when not counting taxes – the congress would have created a

surplus of more than €6,000 and an income by membership fees of about €4,000. It must be said that the "deficit" is not the real congress deficit, as some positions like "Membership fees" are included in this report, which normally does not belong to congress finances, and the waived fees for ExCom and award winners are missing. Julia could not bring the C&T report into a correct form, as membership fees and tax payments were interwoven. Participation was low but the organisers also managed to hold expenses low. The "deficit" results from 20% tax C&T charged us for every income amount. We were not aware of this problem before, and the payments were claimed in a very unclear manner by C&T: In their report, the taxes do not appear under expenses, but they introduce every income only with 80% of the real amount, claiming that they have to pay taxes for every income. Furthermore, they put part of our seed money under "Income" and deduced 20% tax for this position also. They have, however, not been able to prove these payments to our auditor and declared that they could only present the tax payment for the whole company and recommended us to study the respective Hungarian tax laws. The auditor accepted all other positions of their report. We negotiated by a huge email exchange with C&T, but were not successful. The officers discussed the Szeged report and decided that we should render it as final financial settlement of the congress, because we cannot follow up the tax problem as this would be more expensive than the money we could expect; this does not mean that we accept it as correct. Therefore, we proposed to the ExCom and the AGM to consent to this decision and accept the financial report of the congress with a remark that we were obliged to adopt some unclear positions from C&T, who handled finances at Szeged.

Regarding other expenditure positions, no substantial increase compared to 2004 could be detected. In contrast, expenses for Officers, ExCom and Awards were reduced substantially.

Regarding the income from membership fees, there was a decrease because of the low congress participation and due to the fact that 20% taxes were deduced from the membership fees collected in Szeged.

To summarise: it must be stated that the income from membership fees is not enough to empower the current expenditure of the society. We must insist that in any plan for further conference budgets, some costs connected with the conference, but no direct conference costs (Awards, Waived fees etc.) are covered by a conference surplus. The congress organiser of this year, David Warne, informed us that we can be sure that this goal will be reached for the Geneva congress and that we can expect some additional surplus.

As there is a surplus expected from Geneva, and the finances until 30 June 2006 shows the usual tendency, I propose to maintain the membership fees for 2007 as before. Nevertheless, I feel obliged to announce an increase of membership fees will be unavoidable next year if we do not end up with a positive balance in 2006.

Heidelberg, 20 July 2006: Norbert Victor

## ISCB27 Geneva 2006: AGM Report (continued)

### Appendix 2: FINANCIAL REPORT at 31 DECEMBER 2005

	2005	2004
	Euro	Euro
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	15,040.00	22,700.00
Membership fees collected in Szeged	3,008.00	
Conference surplus		20,084.36
Deficit of cash flow in connection with the conference 2005	-6,347.51	
Advertising	3,000.00	2,800.00
Earned interest	1,426.27	3,074.04
Currency gains	46.69	317.43
<b>Total income</b>	<b>16,173.45</b>	<b>48,975.83</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Permanent Office:</b>		
Consumables		22.25
Postage & freight	91.48	174.31
Telecommunication & internet	1,385.43	882.28
Printing & photocopying	87.18	75.73
Administration Medicon	11,209.18	11,194.02
	12,773.27	12,348.59
<b>Officers &amp; ExCom:</b>		
Conference fees		5,200.00
Accommodation	1,538.00	1,204.16
Travel expenses	1,729.26	685.10
Other expenses	260.00	
	3,527.26	7,089.26
<b>Awards (Students, Scientists):</b>		
Conference fees		3,300.00
Accommodation	2,276.00	4,115.98
Travel expenses	2,108.15	742.61
Other expenses		1,254.45
	4,384.15	9,413.04
<b>Workshops / Courses:</b>		
Honorarium		1,739.52
Travel expenses		1,166.19
	0.00	2,905.71
<b>Newsletter:</b>		
Office expenses	5,750.91	6,209.81
Editorial expense		
Travel expenses		
	5,750.91	6,209.81
<b>Other items:</b>		
Bank charges	1,238.98	1,646.38
Audit	1,680.00	1,680.00
Currency loss	24.67	453.72
Loss for unrealisable assets	11.00	
	2,954.65	3,780.10
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>29,390.24</b>	<b>41,746.51</b>
<b>NET INCOME:</b>	<b>-13,216.79</b>	<b>7,229.32</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank accounts:</b>		
Barclays GBP high interest account		12,667.43
Barclays Euro account	30,095.39	10,347.16
Nordea DKK account	6,747.52	5,299.35
Nordea Euro account	1,282.58	33,301.05
Bonds, Danish Shipbuilding Fund 2006	44,226.62	44,226.62
	82,352.11	105,841.61
<b>Others:</b>		
Accounts receivable		854.85
Leiden 2004 surplus		6,615.56
Szeged 2005 seed money	8,000.00	4,000.00
To be paid by Szeged: 2005 membership fees	3,008.00	
	11,008.00	11,470.41
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>93,360.11</b>	<b>117,312.02</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Owing to Permanent Office	5,795.96	26,698.59
Audit	1,680.00	1,680.00
Accounts payable (ExCom & Awards, Szeged)	4,274.00	
Deficit of cash flow with C&T in connection with the conference 2005	6,347.51	
Prepayment account, members	280.00	734.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>18,377.47</b>	<b>29,112.59</b>
<b>Assets less Liabilities</b>	<b>74,982.64</b>	<b>88,199.43</b>
<b>EQUITY brought forward</b>	<b>88,199.43</b>	<b>80,970.11</b>
<b>Loss by 31 December 2005</b>	<b>-13,216.79</b>	
<b>Profit by 31 December 2004</b>		<b>7,229.32</b>
<b>EQUITY carried forward</b>	<b>74,982.64</b>	<b>88,199.43</b>

Conversion rates:

31-12-2004      DKK/EUR 743.81    GBP/EUR 1.4373                      31-12-2005      DKK/EUR 746.05    GBP/EUR 1.4735

\* This is not the "congress deficit" but the negative balance of all money flows between ISCB's Permanent Office and the Professional Organisers of the Szeged conference, in particular:

3,296.-- so-called congress deficit

+ 3,008.-- membership fees (included under this position in the ISCB report, but included in the official Szeged congress accounts under Income of the congress (3760 - 752 taxes for these fees (under Expenses)).

+ 33,51 bank charges for the cheque of 420 € sent by C&T

+ 10.-- deduced from C&T from our seed money for bank charges

## ISCB27 Geneva 2006: AGM Report (continued)

### Appendix 3: Financial Report 26<sup>th</sup> ISCB-Conference, Szeged (Hungary) by Julia Singer

<u>Income:</u>	<u>Totals (EUR)</u>
Registration fees	55,780
Courses and Workshops with tutorial fees	7,240
Sponsoring	7,468
Membership fees	3,760
	<u>74,248</u>
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Congress organisation, incl. congress office	8,288
Account management (Credit card fees)	622
Costs for LOC and SPC	2,564
Printing, Mailing (Announcements, Programmes, Abstracts)	6,523
Telephone, Fax, Internet etc.	2,072
Rooms with technical equipment (audiovisual poster boards)	12,750
Costs for Invited speakers	5,684
Costs for lecturers of tutorials (Courses, Workshops)	7,004
Staff during the conference (Conference desk, technical aid in the lecture rooms)	4,973
Catering (Coffee breaks, optional lunches)	9,508
Miscellanea (congress bags, badges etc.) and unforeseen	3,457
20% Tax for registration fees	11,156
20% Tax for courses and workshop fees	1,448
20% Tax for membership fees	752
Amount for taxes on seed money wrongly passed to the accounts by C&T	743
	<u>77,544</u>

#### Congress Balance

Income	74,248
Expenses	77,544
Congress Deficit	-3,296

#### Balance of money flow between C&T and ISCB

Seed Money (bank transfer fee subtracted)	7,990
Congress Deficit	- 3,296
Expenses of the award winners (Paid by C&T)	-2,476
Expenses of the ExCom (Paid by C&T)	-1,798
Total Balance to be paid back from C&T to ISCB*	420*

\*was transferred to ISCB by cheque and also put in the ISCB accounts with 386.49 € because of 33.51 € bank charges. Remark: The congress treasurer was obliged to accept the tax positions for finishing the financial settlement, but without any proof of correctness.

### Appendix 4: AUDIT of finances on the 26th conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB) held in Szeged in August 2005

The 26th Conference of ISCB was held between 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 2005 at the József Attila Study and Information Centre, Szeged, Hungary. The realisation of the conference was appointed to the Congress Travel Hungary Convention Bureau (C & T 6722 Szeged, Dáni u. 7. 6701 Szeged P.O. Box: 898).

The conference had a separate subaccount, and the incoming monies of different activities were handled separately. The review of the financial statements did not reveal any discrepancies. The documentation of

the incomes and the expenditures were found to be appropriate, and they were in accordance with the financial statements. The audit included examining, by a sample, the existence of documents confirming the expenses and their amounts. During the audit I had no access to documents regarding tax issues and there were no documents available confirming tax payments.

Szeged, 23 May 2006 Matuz Mária (Internal auditor)

### Appendix 5: ISCB Budget 2007

	Euro
<u>Income</u>	
Membership fees	20,000
Conference surplus	15,000
Advertising and Earned interest	5,000
Total income	40,000
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Permanent Office:	13,000
Officers & ExCom:	7,000
Awards (Students, Scientists):	8,000
Workshops / Courses:	2,000
Newsletter:	7,000
Other items (Audits):	3,000
Total expenditure	40,000

## ISCB28 Alexandroupolis 2007: Conference Awards for Scientists

From Julia Singer

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 or poster at the 28th ISCB Meeting in Alexandroupolis, Greece, 29 July – 2 August, 2007. Up to six such awards will be granted. An award consists of free accommodation and registration paid by ISCB. Full details of the scheme are given below. Scientists should submit the application form and a one-page summary of the paper (poster) to be presented to:

Julia Singer  
 Chair, ISCB Subcommittee on 'National Groups'  
 Biometrics and Clinical Informatics  
 Janssen Pharmaceutica N.V.  
 Turnhoutseweg 30,  
 B-2340 Beerse,  
 Belgium

Tel: +32 14 602539,  
 Fax: +32 14 605802  
 email: [jlsngr@gmail.com](mailto:jlsngr@gmail.com)

The closing date for application is 15 February 2007

### 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 Chair, ISCB Subcommittee on 'National Groups' by 15 February 2007.
- 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 Chair of the Subcommittee will inform each applicant on the Subcommittee's decision.

### 1. Application form:

#### Application Conference Awards for Scientists 28th ISCB Meeting in Alexandroupolis, Greece, 29 July – 2 August, 2007

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	
Previous ISCB Awards	
I would prefer to give an oral presentation / a poster	
I agree to become a member of the ISCB for the year 2006 if I am granted the award. There will be no charge for this.	
I want to attend the conference and I would like my abstract to be forwarded to the Scientific Programme Committee even if I am not granted the award.	
Agree/Not agree	
Date: _____	Signature: _____

From KyungMann Kim

Student Conference Awards are available for registered postgraduate students to attend and present a paper at the 28th ISCB Meeting in Alexandroupolis, Greece, during 29 July-2 August 2007. At least three 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, prepared as described below, should be sent to:

KyungMann Kim  
Chair, ISCB Subcommittee on 'Student Conference Awards'  
Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health  
600 Highland Ave, K6/438 CSC  
Madison, WI 57392-4675  
USA.

Tel: +1 608 265 6380  
Fax : +1 608 265 5579  
Email: [kyungmannkim@wisc.edu](mailto:kyungmannkim@wisc.edu)

The closing date for applications is 15 February 2007.

For details on the Student Conference Awards, visit the ISCB Annual Conference website  
<http://www.iscb2007.gr/>.

### 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 programme 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 15 February 2007. The items in (a) and (b) must be submitted in electronic format (DOC, PDF or PS format only) to the address given above.

#### 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. For 2007, 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.

NB abstracts will NOT be forwarded to the Scientific Programme Committee for the normal abstract review; but if you submit your SCA abstract as a normal abstract, please inform the SCA and SPC Chairs.

## ISCB29 Copenhagen 2008: Invitation

From Bjarne Nielsen, Chairman of the LOC

It is a great pleasure to invite you to participate in the 29th annual conference in Copenhagen, which will be held from the 17th to the 21st August 2008.

The conference will take place at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts – School of Architecture located at “Holmen”, a historic area in the centre of Copenhagen.

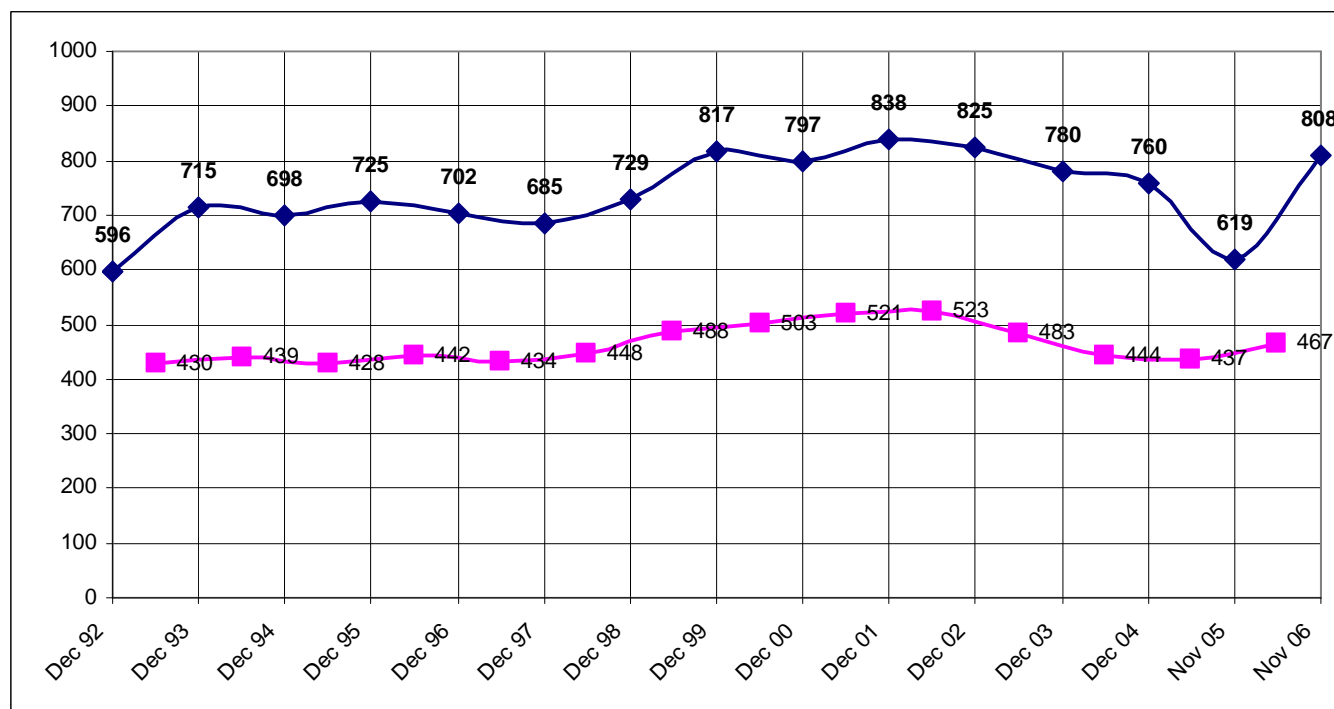
The Scientific Programme Committee is already working to make up a stimulating set of topics for the program. The SPC is chaired by Philip Hougaard (Denmark) and committee members are Michal Abrahamowicz (Canada), Antonella Bacchieri (Italy), Peter Bauer (Austria), Carl-Fredrik Burman (Sweden), Saskia Le Cessie (the Netherlands), Simon Day (United Kingdom), Susanne Ditlevsen (Denmark), Amita Manatunga (USA), Martin Schumacher (Germany), and Zdenek Valenta (Czech Republic).

The social programme will include sightseeing tours in the Øresund region and an enjoyable get-together. For those of you who participated in Geneva, this year we can inform you that the conference dinner will take place at restaurant “Paafuglen” in the Tivoli Gardens instead of “Nimb”, because “Nimb” will be closed in 2008.

The local organisers will do their best to make the ISCB-29 conference a successful event and hope to welcome you in Copenhagen.

[www.iscb2008.info](http://www.iscb2008.info)

## ISCB Membership Numbers in Recent Years



From Mike Kenward, SPC Chair

As is customary at this time of year the ISCB extends a warm invitation to all members to attend the 2007 annual meeting, the 28th, which will be held in Alexandroupolis in the north-east corner of Greece. You will find with this newsletter the brochure containing information on the conference, the names of those who are busy assembling all the many ingredients that make up a successful meeting, and the necessary information for submitting abstracts and for registering. All this information and more will be on the conference website [www.iscb2007.gr](http://www.iscb2007.gr), which will also have the facilities for online registration and abstract submission.

We have maintained the traditional scientific format for the meeting. This time, at the behest of Emmanuel Lesaffre, we are very pleased that the President's Invited lecture will be given by David Spiegelhalter of the UK Medical Research Council's Biostatistics Unit in Cambridge. David will be talking on monitoring the performance of healthcare systems, a vitally important issue on which he has had a huge influence in the UK.

There will be five invited sessions, planned to provide a wide span of subject matter and methodological content. The topics range from the evaluation of vaccines to the use of surrogate markers in clinical trials. Two sub-themes for 2007 are causal inference and genetics/bioinformatics and these are reflected both in the invited sessions and short courses. Dealing with issues in causal inference, and much more besides, we have an invited session on dynamic treatment regimes for both clinical trials and observational studies. On the other sub-theme there is an invited session on past achievements and current challenges in statistical bioinformatics. The fifth invited session neatly brings both topics together in the exciting new area of Mendelian randomisation in epidemiology.

To complement the invited sessions we have a mini-symposium on Environmental Epidemiology. This will be focusing on issues of air pollution and will draw on expertise from both the Netherlands and locally from the Medical School in Athens which has long experience in this area.

We have four pre-conference short courses. One, on epidemiological time series, ties in nicely with the mini-symposium. Another is on missing data in clinical trials, an area where there has been much disagreement among statisticians and regulators in the past, but for which the literature has recently grown considerably with the first text books specific to the clinical setting now appearing. The final two short-courses reflect the two sub-themes mentioned earlier. One, on methods for life course epidemiology, is concerned with the problem of drawing causal inferences from longitudinal observational data, and the other deals with genetic association studies. All four courses will be given by experienced presenters of great standing in their respective fields.

As is usual, the majority of the sessions at the meeting will be made up of contributed papers. Please do note the deadline of 15 February 2007 for abstract submissions. A list of preferred topics is given in the meeting brochure and website. This is, of course, far from exhaustive and we look forward to receiving abstracts in other areas as well.

There will again be ISCB Conference Awards for Postgraduate Students to attend the meeting. Applications need to be sent to KyungMann Kim of the University of Wisconsin. Again details can be found in the brochure and website. There will also be Conference Awards for Scientists available for biostatisticians from ISCB target countries (in particular countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as developing countries) to attend and present a paper. Julia Singer, the Chair of the ISCB Subcommittee on 'National Groups' is co-ordinating this. Both awards have a deadline for application which is also 15 February 2007.

Alexandroupolis has been described as the bridge that has, for many centuries, unified people and cultures - we trust that for ISCB28 it can be the same for biostatisticians from around the world.



## ***National Group Report: Hungary***

From Jenő Reiczigel

The Hungarian National Group is very active with monthly meetings always on Friday at 2 o'clock, always with interesting lectures and discussions. Sometimes a reputed scientist from outside the Society is invited to give a lecture, but the usual way is that the lectures are given by ourselves to share our experiences and to help each other in our ongoing work. The meetings serve as a forum to expose our new ideas and papers under preparation to constructive criticism. Traditionally our last meeting before the summer vacation is a one-day excursion, this year it was to lake Balaton.

We also have a general meeting each year when our past activities and financial situation is summarised and plans for next year are discussed. Every two years, the general meeting includes an election of

representatives. At the beginning of 2006, Jenő Reiczigel was elected as national representative and Krisztina Boda as deputy.

Membership data has shown a tendency to increase; last year we had about 50 members from universities as well as from pharmaceutical companies. On average 20 persons are present at our meetings.

In 2005, our biggest project was the ISCB26 conference in Szeged. Beyond this, we were one of the co-organisers of the Hungarian Conference on Biometrics and Biomathematics. We also organised a one-day introductory R course.

We have a homepage since 2002 ([www.biostat.hu](http://www.biostat.hu)) and we are working now on its renewal.

## ***National Group Report: Poland***

From Ewa Kawalec

The Polish National Group of ISCB now consists of 49 members (43 in 2005). Seven members participated in the ISCB Meetings and three (out of 7 applicants from Poland) received the Conference Awards for Scientists. Three scientists are frequent reviewers of books.

In October 2005, in Cracow the scientific meeting of our Group took place. During this meeting Michal Abrahamowicz from McGill University in Montreal (Canada) gave a lecture "Non-parametric Modelling of Time-Dependent and Non-linear Effects in a Flexible Extension of the Cox's Model: New Methods and Applications in Cancer Epidemiology" followed by discussion.

Our Group, with a financial support of ISCB, has organised a three day short course entitled "Linear

Mixed Effects Models and Meta-Analysis: Basic Concepts and Applications" which was presented by Tomasz Burzykowski from the Hasselt University in Belgium and Andrzej Galecki from the University of Michigan (USA). It took place on 28-30 June 2006 in Cracow. Thirty-four participants from Hungary, Russia, Turkey and Poland attended the course. 95% of participants judged it as very good or excellent.

We are working now on creating a web page of the Group. A scientific meeting is planned in December 2006, and a General Meeting of the Polish National Group of ISCB (including election) is scheduled for Spring 2007.

## ***National Group Report: Czech Republic***

From Zdenek Valenta

On 6 March 2006, Zdenek Valenta was informed by the ISCB President John Whitehead, that the ISCB membership has voted in favour of the creation of the Czech National Group. Sixty people voted in favour, and two against. The national group has come into formal existence six months from the day of the vote, which, by "happy coincidence", turned out to be the 1st day of the 27th annual ISCB conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, 28 August 2006.

This year, we have primarily continued working with the Czech governmental institutions towards legally establishing the Czech national group within the ranks of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics. Having exchanged numerous drafts of the Group's constitution, on 11 September 2006, we have finally received a letter from the Ministry of the Interior (Home Department/Office) stating that the Group was officially recognised and registered in the Czech Republic as a non-profit organisation. Meanwhile, we continue to finalise the details leading to establishing the bank account for our group.

To date, the Group has 28 members, two of whom took part in this year's conference in Geneva, Switzerland. The first official gathering of our group this autumn will be on 11 November 2006. The main speaker will be Arnost Komarek from Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium. The title for his talk is "Semiparametric regression models for complex time-to-event data: MCMC perspective". We plan to record the session on the video and make the slides from the talk plus the talk itself available to the Group's membership online.

One of our main recent activities continues to be the Group's endeavour in organising the Society's 30th annual conference in 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic. Zdenek Valenta presented a first proposal towards that goal at the ExCom meeting which took part during the Geneva conference this year. Overall the proposal was well received by the ExCom members and we hope to be able to overcome several budgetary issues that would help lowering the conference expenditures as well as improving the projected/expected surplus.



**History of ISCB – An Update**

From David W. Warne

Over the page, please find an update of the history of the Executive Committee of the Society, last published 4 years ago.

The idea of a meeting (not then a named Society) came from a discussion over dinner in Brussels in 1978. The following year, Maurice Staquet organised a meeting, which was hosted by EORTC, and held in Brussels (May 1979). This has been termed ISCB-1 although the name was “International Society **Of** Clinical Biostatistics” not “International Society **For** Clinical Biostatistics” and it was not until a similar meeting, held the following year at the University of Exeter, that the Society was formed. At the following meeting held at Erasmus University in 1982 [note there was no meeting in 1981] the first President, Ettore Marubini, was elected.

Presidents held the post for one year and it was passed on at the Annual General Meeting (held, as now, during the conference). In 1992 the post of President was extended to be held for two years: Jorgen Seldrup was the first President to have that honour. At the Annual General Meeting in 1996 a new and substantially updated Constitution was approved which (amongst many other things) changed the incoming/outgoing dates of the Executive Committee to be 1<sup>st</sup> January. The incoming Executive Committee including the President, Karsten Schmidt, thus served a slightly longer period: instead of passing on to the new Committee at the Boston meeting in the summer of 1997, they continued until the end of December 1997. Hence the table, overleaf, shows membership of the Executive Committee straddling from the middle of one year to the middle of the next, up until 1996 when they fall in line with calendar years.

We hope everything is correct! We have tried to get it all right by talking to past Presidents and other former (and current) active members. If anyone sees any inaccuracies, omissions, etc. then please let us know. We will keep it up to date and, may publish it again around the time of our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2008.

## History of ISCB – An Update (continued)

P = President; PP = Past-President; VP = Vice President; S = Secretary; T = Treasurer; O = Ordinary Member; Ch=Chair, N = newsletter editor; W = Webmaster; \* = co-opted member, x2.1 = 1<sup>st</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> term (etc.)<sup>†</sup>  
 Meetings in 1985 and 1999 held with the GMDS. Meetings in 1991 and 1997 and 2003 held with the SCT

Year:	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979		
ISCB number:	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	-	2	1		
Conference location	Copenhagen (DK)	Alexandroupolis (GR)	Geneva (CH)	Stegeed (HI)	Leiden (NL)	London (UK)	Dijon (F)	Stockholm (S)	Trento (I)	Heidelberg (D)	Dundee (UK)	Boston (USA)	Budapest (H)	Barcelona (E)	Basel (CH)	Cambridge (UK)	Copenhagen (DK)	Brussels (B)	Nîmes (F)	Maastricht (NL)	Innsbruck (A)	Gothenburg (S)	Cardiff (UK)	Düsseldorf (D)	San Marino (I)	Paris (F)	Rotterdam (NL)	(No meeting)	Exeter (UK)	Brussels (B)		
Chair of Local Organising Committee	Nielsen	Sypsz	Varne	Singer	Van Houwelingen	Elbourne	Chadha-Boreham	Palmgren	Valsecchi	Victor	Lawson	Geller	Hajtman	Cobos	Schenker	Day	Schmidt	Buijse	Chastang	Does	Neiss	Lörstäd	Wilson	Jedinsky	Marubini	Sancho-Garnier	van Stryk		Harris	Staquet		
David Varne	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*																	
Emmanuel Lesaffre	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	S2.2	S2.1	S1.2	S1.1	O1.2	O1.1																						
Norbert Victor	VP.2	VP.1	T2.2	T2.1	T1.2	T1.1	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																							
Bjarne Nielsen	W*	W*	W*	W*	O1.2	O1.1		W*	W*																							
Harbajan Chadha-Boreham	S2.2	S2.1	S1.2	S1.1	O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Koos Zwinderman	T1.2	T1.1	O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																										
Peter Lachenbruch	O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Rumana Omar	O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Catherine Quantin	O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Jeno Reiczigel	O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Marie Reilly	O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Martin Schumacher	O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Adriano Decarli	O1.2	O1.1																														
KyungMann Kim	O1.2	O1.1																														
John Whitehead		PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	T2.2	T2.1	T1.2	T1.1	O1.2	O1.1																				
Vana Sypsa			O1.2	O1.1																												
Maria Grazia Valsecchi				PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	S1.2	S1.1			O2.2	O1.2	O1.2	O1.1																
Elia Biganzoli					O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Stephen Evans					O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Carol Redmond					O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Julia Singer					O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Elisabeth Svensson					O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Silvia Codony					W*	W*	W*																									
Simon Day						PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	S1.2	S1.1	O2.2	O1.2	O1.2	O1.1																
Simon Heisterkamp							O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																						
Nancy Geller								PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																	
Jørgen Seldrup									O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1	PP.2	PP.1	P.2	P.1	VP/N	O/N	S	S	S	S/N	O/N	O								
Mike Campbell									O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																				
Bruno Cesana									O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																				
Ted Colton									O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																				
Michael Schemper									O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																				

## History of ISCB – An Update (continued)

Year:	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979			
ISCB number:	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	-	2	1			
Conference location	Copenhagen (DK)	Alexandroupolis (GR)	Geneva (CH)	Stege (HI)	Leiden (NL)	London (UK)	Dijon (F)	Stockholm (S)	Trento (I)	Heidelberg (D)	Dundee (UK)	Boston (USA)	Budapest (H)	Barcelona (E)	Basel (CH)	Cambridge (UK)	Copenhagen (DK)	Brussels (B)	Nîmes (F)	Maastricht (NL)	Innsbruck (A)	Gothenburg (S)	Cardiff (UK)	Düsseldorf (D)	San Marino (I)	Paris (F)	Rotterdam (NL)	(No meeting)	Exeter (UK)	Brussels (B)			
Chair of Local Organising Committee	Nielsen	Sipzy	Varne	Singer	Van Houwelingen	Elbourne	Chadha-Boreham	Palmgren	Valsecchi	Victor	Lawson	Geller	Hajtman	Cobos	Schenker	Day	Schmidt	Buyse	Chastang	Does	Neiss	Lörstad	Wilson	Jesdinsky	Marubini	Sancho-Garnier	van Strik	(No meeting)	Harris	Staquet			
Karsten Schmidt										PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	T1.2	T1.1	O																
Alberto Cobos										O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																				
Marc Buyse											PP.2	PP.1	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	O	O															
Bernard Huitfeldt											T2.2	T2.1	T1.2	T1.1	O1.2	O1.1																	
Stephen Senn													S2.2	S2.1	S1.2	S1.1	O'																
Hans van Houwelingen													O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																	
Tony Johnson													O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																	
Béla Hajtman													O1.2	O1.1																			
Irene Guggenmoos-Holzmann														O1.2	O1.1																		
Claude Chastang															PP.2	PP.1	P	VP	O	O													
Ed Gehan																	O	O	O	O	PP	P	VP	O	O								
Wolfgang Köpcke																	O	O	PP	P	VP	T	T	T	T								
Doug Wilson																	T	T	T/N	T/N	O/N	PP	P	VP	T	T	T	T					
Giuseppe Gallus																	O	O						O	O								
Mats Lörstad																	S	S/N	PP/N	P	VP	O											
Peter Armitage																	PP	P	VP														
Arend Heyting																	O	O															
Ewa Krusinska																	O	O															
Jean-Pierre Daures																		O	O														
Thomas Zwingers																		O	O														
Rob Dixon																			O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			
Roel van Strik																			O	O	O	O	O	O	PP	P	O						
Ettore Marubini																			O	O							P						
Roland Does																			O	O													
A. Morabito																			O	O													
Albrecht Neiss																				O	O												
Helen Sancho-Garnier																					PP	P	VP										
Hans Jesdinsky																							PP	P									
Ray Harris																																Ch	
Read																																O	
Maurice Staquet																																	

## Books for Review by Harry Southworth

Books for review:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. Robert Gentleman, Vincent J. Carey, Wolfgang Huber, Rafael A. Irizarry and Sandrine Dudoit (Editors)	Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions Using R and Bioconductor	Springer (2005) 0-387-25146-4	
2. Naomi B. Robbins	Creating More Effective Graphs	Wiley (2005) 0-471-27402-X	
3. G. A. Young and R. L. Smith	Essentials of Statistical Inference	Cambridge (2005) 780521839716	
4. D. C. Hoaglin, F. Mosteller and J. W. Tukey	Exploring Data Tables, Trends, and Shapes	Wiley (2006, 1985) 0-470-04005-x	
5. Daniel Zelterman	Models for Discrete Data (Revised Edition)	Oxford (2006) 9-780198-567011	
6. Frank R. Hampel, Elvezio M. Ronchetti, Peter J. Rousseeuw and Werner A. Stahel	Robust Statistics: The Approach Based on Influence Functions	Wiley (2005) 0-471-73577-9	
7. Frank R. Hampel, Elvezio M. Ronchetti, Peter J. Rousseeuw and Werner A. Stahel	Robust Statistics: The Approach Based on Influence Functions	Wiley (2005) 0-471-73577-9	
8. Rasmus Nielsen (Editor)	Statistical Methods in Molecular Evolution	Springer (2005) 0-387-22333-9	
9. A. C. Davison	Statistical Models	Cambridge (2003) 780521773393	
10. David A. Freedman	Statistical Models, Theory and Practice	Cambridge (2005) 780521671057	
11. Lemuel A. Moye	Statistical Monitoring of Clinical Trials	Springer (2006) 0-387027781-1.	
12. Brian D. Ripley	Stochastic Simulation	Wiley, 1987 (2006) 0-470-00960-8	
13. Feifang Hu and William F. Rosenberger	The Theory of Response-Adaptive Randomization in Clinical Trials	Wiley (2006) 0-471-65396-9	
14. Forrest W. Young, Pedro M. Valero-Mora and Michael Friendly	Visual Statistics	Wiley (2006) 0-471-68160-1	
Books reviews in this issue:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. M. M. Desu and D. Raghavarao	Nonparametric Statistical Methods for Complete and Censored Data	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2004) 1-58488-319-7	Julia Singer, Belgium
2. Warren J. Ewens and Gregory R. Grant	Statistical Methods in Bioinformatics: An Introduction	Springer, (2005) 0-387-40082-6	Hamid Pezeshk, Iran
3. David J. Spiegelhalter, Keith R. Abrams and Jonathan P. Myles	Bayesian Approaches to Clinical Trials and Health-care Evaluation	Wiley (2004) 0-471-49975-7	Andy Vail, UK
4. Eric Vittinghoff, David V. Glidden, Stephen C. Shiboski and Charles E. McCulloch	Regression Methods in Biostatistics: Linear, Logistic, Survival and Repeated Measures Models	Springer (2005) 0-387-20275-7	Rainer Muehe, Germany
5. George A. F. Seber	Multivariate Observations	Wiley (2004) 0-471-69121-6	Elzbieta Pleszczynska, Poland
6. Robert E. Weiss	Modeling Longitudinal Data	Springer (2004) 0-387-40271-3	Peter Lachenbruch, USA
7. David Collett	Modelling Survival Data in Medical Research (Second Edition)	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2003) 1-58488-325-1	Janez Stare, Slovenia
8. S. Chevret (Editor)	Statistical Methods for Dose-Finding Experiments	Wiley (2006) 0-470-86123-1	Tiberiu Postelnicu, Romania

## Books for Review (continued)

Books recently sent for review:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. David L. DeMets, Curt D. Furberg and Lawrence M. Friedman (Editors)	Data Monitoring in Clinical Trials	Springer (2006) 9-780387-203300	Barbara Hawkins, USA
2. Stephen Senn	Dicing with Death	Cambridge (2003) 0-521-54023-2	Anneke Grobler, South Africa
3. Kunio Takezawa	Introduction to Nonparametric Regression	Wiley (2006) 0-471-74583-9	Sada Nand Dwivedi, India
4. Julian J. Faraway	Linear Models with R	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2005) 1-58488-425-8	Guido Knapp, Germany
5. Tomasz Burzykowski, Geert Molenberghs and Marc Buyse (Editors)	The Evaluation of Surrogate Endpoints	Springer (2005) 0-387-20277-3	Tim Friede, Switzerland
6. H. Brown and R. Prescott	Applied Mixed Models in Medicine (Second Edition)	Wiley (2006) 0-470-02356-2	Marie Reilly, Sweden
7. Stephen D. Simon	Statistical Evidence in Medical Trials	Oxford (2006) 0-190856760-X	Rainer Muche, Germany
Books sent for review quite a long time ago			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year)	Reviewer
1. J. Edward Jackson	A User's Guide to Principle Components	Wiley (2003) 0-471-47134-8	Nicole Close, USA
2. J M Bernardo et al (eds.)	Bayesian Statistics 7	Oxford University Press (2003) 0-19-852615-6	Stefan Tigan, Romania
3. Daniel Zelterman	Discrete Distributions: Applications in the Health Sciences	Wiley (2004) 0-470-86888-0	Béla Hajtman, Hungary
4. Mark Woodward	Epidemiology: Study Design and Data Analysis (Second Edition)	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2005) 1-58488-415-0	Anneke Grobler, South Africa
5. Jean Dickinson Gibbons and Subhabrata Chakraborti	Nonparametric Statistical Inference (Fourth Edition)	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2003) 0-8247-4052-1	Elisabeth Svensson, Sweden
6. Phillip Good	Permutation, Parametric, and Bootstrap Tests of Hypotheses (Third Edition)	Springer (2005) 0-387-20279-X	Gaj Vidmar, Slovenia
7. Vance W. Berger	Selection Bias and Covariate Imbalances in Randomized Clinical Trials	Wiley (2005) 0-470-86362-5	Kim Hawkins, UK
8. John Aitchison, Jim W. Kay and Ian J. Lauder	Statistical Concepts and Applications in Clinical Medicine	Chapman & Hall/CRC (2005) 1-58488-208-5	Denis Enachescu, Romania
9. Murray Aitkin, Brian Francis and John Hinde	Statistical Modelling in GLIM 4	Oxford (2005) 0-19-852413-7	Herwig Friedl, Austria
10. John Verzani	Using R for Introductory Statistics	Chapman & Hall/CRC (2005) 1-58488-450-9	Justin Clayton, USA
11. Shein-Chung Chow, Jun Shao and Hansheng Wang	Sample Size Calculations in Clinical Research	CRC (2003) 0-8247-0970-5	Jorgen Selstrup, France
12. George E. P. Box, J. Stuart Hunter and William G. Hunter	Statistics for Experimenters (Second Edition)	Wiley (2005) 0-471-71813-0	Faans Steyn, South Africa
13. 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

### Book publishers' webpages:

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## ***Book Review by Julia Singer (Belgium)***

M. M. Desu and D. Raghavarao	Nonparametric Statistical Methods for Complete and Censored Data	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2004) 1-58488-319-7
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Many research workers and industrialists carry out their own basic statistical analyses. This is an excellent guidance for them. As the authors indicate in their introduction: this book can be used as a textbook for a one-semester junior-senior or first-year graduate course, or as a reference book for researchers in biostatistics, pharmaceutical statistics, business, psychology and social sciences.

This easy-to-read book introduces the concepts intuitively, following in each chapter the same structure: methods for binary data first, then those for categorical and continuous outcomes, paving the way to the analysis of censored data. Each chapter is followed by two types of appendices: in the first appendix some mathematical derivations, details and proofs are given, while in the second, SAS codes are presented for sample size evaluations, confidence limit calculations, etc. The difficulty of these SAS programs ranges from the very simple SAS/STAT procedures to complicated ones using SAS/IML. Finally, each chapter ends with problems based on real examples (for the majority of them solutions are given at the end of the book), and then references. The dates of references, ranging from 1927 up to 2002, indicate the wide variety of methods presented from classical to recent results, from Kolmogorov to Agresti. Besides the usual methods which can be found in most nonparametric statistical handbooks, some less common problems are treated as well, like the analysis of block designs, precedence tests, asymptotic relative efficiency, Koopman's interval, Slivka's control quantile test, Chakraborti and Desu test, etc.

In the first chapter procedures for one sample are presented. The mathematical supplement contains details on the binomial

cumulative distribution function, on confidence intervals for percentiles, and on relations between percentiles of Kolmogorov tests.

In the second chapter two-sample procedures for independent samples are treated (some of the less common topics: combined sample percentile tests, confidence interval for the difference between medians without shift assumption, extension of Fisher's exact test, some models that induce stochastic ordering).

The chapter on procedures for paired samples presents clinical equivalence as well. Procedures for several independent samples are then presented, together with multiple comparison procedures. The analysis of block designs (chapter 5) is one of the most interesting parts of the book. Procedures for both equal and unequal block sizes are presented.

Independence, correlation and regression are then described briefly in chapter 6, while in the last chapter a very short introduction (of only 6 pages) to computer intensive methods is given.

What I really liked in this book is its clarity and reliability. The book is reliable in the sense that everything what is presented in the theoretical part can be either proven by the formulae given in the mathematical appendix or it can be immediately verified on real examples using the SAS codes.

## ***Book Review by Andy Vail (UK)***

David J. Spiegelhalter, Keith R. Abrams and Jonathan P. Myles	Bayesian Approaches to Clinical Trials and Health-care Evaluation	Wiley (2004) 0-471-49975-7
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This book constitutes an update of a previously published review for the UK's Health Technology Assessment programme (Spiegelhalter et al, 2000). In ten chapters it compares various Bayesian and frequentist philosophies, and covers a range of applications where the authors believe Bayesian methods provide a natural approach to inference.

Each chapter contains several published examples, some of which are developed to increasing levels of sophistication through subsequent chapters. An accompanying website provides downloads and software for these. The authors emphasise their pragmatic rather than ideological preferences throughout, and are careful to describe and explain opposing views. Provision of approximately 500 references is generous, and several chapters include recommendations for further reading. Each also ends with a summary of 'key points' and a set of exercises.

In their introduction the authors acknowledge difficulty with structuring such an ambitious book. To some extent it gives the impression of being two books: the first a review of Bayesian methods; the second a review of applications. There is a great deal of cross-referencing, both forwards and backwards, that links the sections into a whole.

The first half contains a fairly dry run through 'basic concepts' of analysis, before a much longer but very readable and well-illustrated overview of Bayesian approaches. Comparison of different frequentist and Bayesian approaches follows in which the authors explain complicated ideas with great clarity. Finally there is a chapter dedicated to elicitation, choice and criticism of prior distributions.

The second half begins with a thorough chapter on phase III randomised trials. This considers ethics, sample size calculation, data monitoring and multiplicity issues in some depth, and gives multiple references for further reading on specific issues such as earlier phase trials and alternative designs. A brief chapter on observational designs could be summarised as "similar techniques, more caution".

Substantive chapters follow on meta-analysis and health economics. The emphasis in these chapters is on how the Bayesian structure extends naturally to incorporate more complicated models.

Throughout, the authors warn of the importance of understanding the sense of the application. They stress the importance of sensitivity analyses and recognise the need for analyses tailored to the end-user.

I strongly recommend this book to applied statisticians who are interested in understanding or undertaking Bayesian approaches. The authors have deliberately taken steps "to use the simplest possible analytic methods", with an intended audience of those with training "up to the level necessary to use standard statistical packages". I think the text is at a more technical level than this suggests.

### References:

D. Spiegelhalter, J. Myles, D. Jones and K. Abrams. Bayesian methods in health technology assessment: a review. Health Technology Assessment, Vol. 4, - , (2000).

This is the second edition of Ewens and Grant's very well written book on statistical methods in bioinformatics. This book is one of the most up-to-date texts in the field of bioinformatics which focuses on the probability theory, statistics and stochastic process theory appropriate to the field. The book first appeared in 2001 and has now been updated to include new chapters on microarray analysis and on statistical inference concerning many recently used methods in molecular biology and bioinformatics. This edition not only includes new discussion on subjects such as analysis of variance, the statistical theory of motifs and new parts on methods based on discrete random variables such as hypergeometric distribution, but also intends to clarify the materials in more detail.

The authors have presented an excellent text for a graduate course or a course at senior undergraduate level on bioinformatics. However, it should be noted that the text is well suited to individual study for readers with a relatively fair amount of knowledge of mathematics and statistics. The level of explanation is enough to provide the interested reader with good understanding of the techniques. There are also 236 references included in the book for readers interested in further reading. There are some problems at the end of each chapter which allow the reader to develop aspects of the theory by practicing the methods outlined in the text.

The book consists of fifteen chapters and four appendices.

Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the probability theory relating to a single random variable. Some of the univariate discrete and continuous random variables frequently used in practice are described in this chapter. Concepts such as entropy, relative entropy, scores and support are briefly introduced.

Chapter 2 looks at basic concepts of multivariate statistical analysis. Joint probability and joint density functions, marginal densities, conditional densities, covariance and correlation and order statistics are discussed. Functions of random variables and some of their properties appear in this chapter. Particularly, there is a discussion on the distributional properties of the minimum and maximum of  $n$  random variables.

In chapter 3 the authors provide an introduction to statistical inference including a brief comparison between classical (frequentist) and Bayesian methods. Point estimation and interval estimation together with hypothesis testing are discussed. There is also a not too short discussion on nonparametric statistical hypothesis testing in chapter 3. Chapter 4 is on the basic concepts of stochastic processes concerning homogeneous Poisson processes and Markov chains. There is an outline of the theory of a simple case of a discrete-time Markov chain in this chapter to prepare the material needed to discuss the construction of PAM matrices in forthcoming chapters. Markov chains with and without absorbing states and their stationary distributions are discussed in this chapter.

The analysis of one DNA sequence including several probabilistic issues arising in the reconstruction of long DNA sequences from shorter sequences is discussed in chapter 5. Some of the basic signal models that are used in bioinformatics such as weight matrices, Markov dependencies and Maximal dependence decompositions are also discussed in this chapter. The analysis of patterns concerning the concept of a "word" is used to discuss the "number of occurrences" and "distance between occurrences" of a word in a given DNA sequence.

Chapter 6 is on the analysis of several DNA or protein sequences. Tests for significant similarity in alignments are discussed in this chapter. Algorithms for alignments of two sequences including dynamic programming alignment algorithms and local alignments with linear gap models are mentioned in this chapter. The derivation of the PAM and BLOSUM substitution matrices in protein sequence analysis are also presented in chapter 6.

In chapter 7 the basic concepts of random walks are discussed to establish the necessary probability theory behind BLAST (Basic Alignment Search Tool), the procedure that searches for local alignments between two sequences. Concepts such as absorption probabilities and mean number of steps until the walk stops are discussed. The theory of general walk through

the asymptotic behaviour of the simple random walk is also stated in chapter 7.

Chapters 8 and 9 are on statistical inference from frequentists' standpoint. Chapter 8 deals with point estimation while chapter 9 concerns testing statistical hypotheses. Maximum likelihood, method of moments and least squares together with multivariate methods of point estimation are discussed in chapter 8. Bootstrap methods for point and confidence estimates are also discussed in this chapter. Some basic concepts of the theory of classical hypothesis testing such as the likelihood ratio and the Neyman-Pearson lemma are dealt with in chapter 9. The analysis of variance (ANOVA) with a good amount of detail including multi-way fixed effects ANOVA and random and mixed effects models is discussed in this chapter. Some methods of multivariate analysis, bootstrap and sequential analysis are also presented in chapter 9.

Chapter 10 gives an extensive account of statistical theory including random walks, P-values, renewal theorem, and sequential analysis associated with the BLAST procedure. The comparison of two aligned or two unaligned sequences, together with the comparison of a query sequence against a database, are presented in detail. Two generalizations which are currently incorporated in BLAST, namely Gapped BLAST and PSI (Position Specific Iterated) BLAST, are also discussed. Chapter 11 covers further details of the theory of Markov chains. Convergence to the stationary distribution of a finite, aperiodic irreducible Markov chain is discussed to establish the necessary preliminaries for the presentation of Markov Chain Monte Carlo algorithms including Hastings-Metropolis, Gibbs sampling and simulated annealing. A brief discussion on continuous-time Markov chains is also presented.

Chapter 12 consists of three sections describing definition, properties, and applications of hidden Markov models (HMM). The Viterbi, the forward and the backward algorithms are presented. The applications of HMM, including modeling protein families, multiple sequence alignments, determination of protein domains (Pfam) and gene finding, are discussed in this chapter.

The statistical analysis of microarray data for one gene and multiple genes are discussed in chapter 13. Testing for differential expression for one gene, including parametric and non-parametric tests and ANOVA, is considered. To discuss the procedures that predict which genes are differentially expressed and which procedures control the number of false-positives, the authors give a good account of methods in the multiple gene case. The family-wise error rate including single-step and step-down methods, the false discovery rate including step-up and permutation methods are presented. Principal components and clustering methods and their applications in microarray data analysis are also very briefly mentioned.

Chapter 14 is on evolutionary models. The statistical and probabilistic aspects of some stochastic models frequently appearing in the literature, are mentioned. Models of nucleotide substitution including discrete-time and continuous-time models are discussed. The Juke-Cantor model, the Kimura models and the Felsenstein models for both the discrete and continuous time cases together with some other models are presented.

In chapter 15 the construction of phylogenetic trees is presented. Three main types of tree-reconstruction methods, namely distance methods, parsimony methods, and statistical methods are discussed. The ultrametric case, the neighbour-joining approach and maximum likelihood tree estimation, together with some other statistical methods such as bootstrap methods, are also discussed in chapter 15.

In summary, there is much to like about this book. It is clearly and interestingly written and is well organized and has comprehensive references to the literature. The writing style is excellent and the development of the ideas and the methods are not too difficult to follow. It is the outcome of a large amount of effort and is truly a reference book for statistical methods in bioinformatics which deserves a place in university libraries and the libraries of any other research institutes active in the field. For researchers in this area it will be essential for their personal bookshelves. So I strongly recommend the book to both molecular biologists and statisticians working in the field.

## **Book Review by Rainer Mucbe (Germany)**

Eric Vittinghoff, David V. Glidden, Stephen C. Shiboski and Charles E. McCulloch

Regression Methods in Biostatistics: Linear, Logistic, Survival and Repeated Measures Models

Springer (2005)  
0-387-20275-7

Regression analysis is an important tool in analysing data in life sciences. The data to be analysed usually consists of one dependent variable (outcome) and several independent variables (predictors). In this situation the following research questions can be examined: 1) prognosis of the outcome based on the predictors, 2) effect of one specific predictor adjusted for other variables (confounder), and 3) exploration of the conjoint effect of all predictor variables together. Each aspect leads to another modelling approach, which is discussed in detail in the book.

The most important regression models in practical applications are the linear model for a continuous outcome, the logistic model for a dichotomous outcome, the Cox-proportional hazards model for time dependent situations and generalized linear models for repeated measurements. For these models the basic ideas, some theoretical background and details of the modelling strategies are given. Several medical examples are used to illustrate the modelling and interpretation. The authors have written the book with the intention to provide an accessible introduction to multipredictor methods, emphasizing their proper use and interpretation. Thus, they kept the book relatively short and show only the absolutely necessary equations. They indicate as target readers medical researchers, who have to use such models in their studies and statistical students, who want to combine learning of statistical methods and their application in real life. As a consequence, the theory is kept small and emphasis is laid on examples and hints for modelling and interpretation. Additionally the authors illustrate their examples with Stata syntax statements and Stata output. Stata is statistical software that is in widespread use in medical research, biometry and epidemiology. The reader has the opportunity to get the data and the Stata-programs used in the book from the website <http://www.biostat.ucsf.edu/vgsm> and to rerun the analysis. Each chapter ends with the indication of the learning targets, with exercises and annotated references. Unfortunately, the solutions of the exercises are not available. Hence the reader can not check whether his results are correct. This is probably the biggest drawback of the book, since the other parts are written in a very good didactic sense.

It is assumed that the readers have a basic knowledge in medical statistics like t-tests, ANOVA, correlation, simple linear regression, Kaplan-Meier estimation and logrank tests. Nevertheless, a brief introduction in these methods is given in chapter 3, so that readers without basic knowledge can use the book and the mentioned regression methods without reading other basic literature.

The essential chapters of the book are chapters 4 to 9 and 11. In chapter 4 the linear regression model is described. Some discussions and methods of variable selection based on this model are presented in chapter 5. Chapter 6 contains the description of the logistic model, chapter 7 the Cox proportional hazards model for survival analysis and chapters 8 and 9 cover the analysis of repeated measurements and generalized linear models. In the final chapter, 11, the authors give an overview of planning and analysing a regression based study. Besides the modelling aspect, they give hints on study design, data management, choosing the right statistical software, data protection and aspects of consultation for biometricians. Especially for inexperienced readers who are not only interested in regression modelling but also in research practice in general, this last chapter is very useful.

The most valuable content of this book are the various applied details of practical aspects of modelling. For example: in chapter 4 not only the basic description of the linear regression model is given, but also many substantial details and references to confounding, interaction, model assumptions, and model-fit. The same detailed information is given in chapter 5 (variable selection). Here they additionally discuss collinearity, events per variable, alternative methods to stepwise-selection and others.

In summary it may be said that this book is excellently readable. Because of the above mentioned detailed aspects of modelling, the applied tips as well as many medical examples, it can be recommended to the readers listed by the authors (see above). In addition it can be recommended as background literature for biometric advisors because of the high didactic quality of the book.

## **Book Review by Elzbieta Pleszczyńska (Poland)**

George A. F. Seber

Multivariate Observations

Wiley (2004) 0-471-69121-6

The content of this book, published in 2004, is identical to its previous printing by Wiley in 1986. It is an excellent introduction to statistical inference in the Multivariate Linear Model (MLM), starting with the Multivariate Normal Model (MVN), and leading the reader to MLM through a series of gradual extensions and supplements. MLM is a milestone of statistical history, necessary to understand further developments of multivariate statistics, exemplified in particular by the Gifi system of descriptive multivariate analysis. Clarity of reasoning, beautiful and simple language, and excellent organization of the text make the book useful and friendly for readers who are well acquainted with matrix algebra and have a preliminary knowledge of ANOVA and MVN. Although the book provides both statistical and data-oriented techniques, the sample-population model of statistical inference dominates the finite dataset investigations. Probabilistic multivariate models needed for statistical inference of random vectors with components measured on at least interval scales, presented in Chapter 2, are described traditionally by means, dispersion matrices, multivariate skewness and kurtosis. Statistical inference starts in Chapter 3 in the case of MVN, covering estimation (point and interval) and testing (with a study of tests' robustness) for the mean and covariance matrix etc. Chapters 4 – 7 deal with visualization and transformation of multivariate data. These Chapters form a concise guide of useful and popular data-oriented techniques, with masterly written pieces of statistical inference. Techniques such as multivariate graphical displays, robust estimates, and outlying

observations are considered first in Chapter 4, followed in Chapter 5 by dimension reduction (principal components, biplots and h-plots, factor analysis) and ordination (multidimensional scaling and canonical analysis among others). Various levels and aspects of discriminant analysis are discussed in Chapter 6 and of cluster analysis in Chapter 7. A return to classic statistical inference in the more general case is presented in Chapter 8 (description of MLM) and Chapter 9 (application of MLM to multivariate analysis of variance and covariance, including growth curve analysis). Special topics in Chapter 10 present computational techniques, log-linear models for binary data and incomplete data problems, while basics of matrix algebra, orthogonal projections, order statistics and probability plotting are given in the appendix. It is a real achievement to discuss so many different topics in a single book of medium size. The book can be used by lecturers and students of statistics, both theoretical and applied, and also by researchers and data analysts. There are a lot of exercises at the end of each chapter (with solutions). The only drawback is that the exemplary datasets are rather schematic and of small size. My personal interest when reading Seber's "Multivariate observations" was concentrated on the author's struggle with "softening" the parametric models and related inference techniques. It is interesting to compare these classic approaches with intrinsically nonparametric ones, which usually imply new conceptual frameworks.



This book is a gem and should be on everyone's bookshelf (well, all statisticians' anyway). It covers longitudinal data models at an elementary level – a second year student can handle the material with appropriate study. It is a model of clarity and provides many useful insights for the reader. There are 13 chapters:

- Introduction to Longitudinal Data – defining, types of inferences, differentiating longitudinal and cross-sectional data, complexities
- Plots – responses over time, interpreting profile plots, elaboration of profile plots, inspecting correlations, empirical summary plots
- Simple Analyses – summaries of longitudinal data, paired t-test, comparisons of differences
- Critiques of Simple Analyses – loss of efficiency, bias, effects of missing data, richness of longitudinal data
- The Multivariate Normal Linear Model – balanced data case, parameterized covariance models, regression models for longitudinal data, graphical presentation of inferences
- Tools and Concepts – likelihood ratio tests, model selection, maximum likelihood and restricted maximum likelihood, computational issues, back-transforming a transformed response, design considerations
- Specifying Covariates – time-fixed covariates, population means varying as a function of time, groups and time, defining time, three-way interactions, step functions, bent lines, and splines, adjusting for baseline, modeling strategies
- Modeling the Covariance Matrix – parameterized covariance models, non-constant variance, non-constant variance and covariates, sums of covariance matrices, reasons to model the covariance matrix
- Random Effects Models – hierarchical models, marginal models, estimation of random effects and shrinkage
- Residuals and Case Diagnostics – residuals and outlier statistics, influence statistics, additional residuals for multivariate regression, residuals and residual plots in random effects models
- Discrete Longitudinal Data – logistic random effects model, count data, issues with discrete data models
- Missing Data – Selective dropout, dropout versus in-study non-response, missing at random and variants, modeling missingness, using missingness as a covariate, missing data in the covariates
- Analyzing Two Longitudinal Variables – Bivariate longitudinal data, continuous time-varying covariates, problems with using a response as a predictor, bivariate random intercept model, bivariate random intercept and slope, non-simultaneously measured observations, unstructured covariance models for bivariate responses

The book also contains suggestions for further reading, and an appendix with descriptions of data sets. The data sets are available online from the author's website. To begin with, a small quibble: Weiss does not cover statistical computing. This would have enriched the text for me. However, programs for computing all analyses in the book are available on the website, so perhaps it is not a serious shortcoming. He notes (p. xvii) that software changes rapidly and thus his decision not to include code for analysis.

He notes that this is a textbook and not a monograph, so minimal mathematical presentation is given. The emphasis here is on data analysis and not theoretical development of the field. The book has plenty of references, particularly to some monographs that allow students to expand their knowledge. The book expects the reader to be familiar with the vector form of linear regression:  $Y = X\alpha + \delta$ , where  $X$  is a matrix of known covariates,  $\alpha$  a  $K$ -vector of coefficients, and  $Y$  and  $\delta$  are  $n$ -vectors of observations and residual errors, respectively. A good course in linear regression models is a prerequisite for this book. He notes that longitudinal data is multivariate, and thus the student will learn some multivariate analysis from the text. Finally, he notes that he teaches this subject as a quarter course – about 10 weeks of class time. To me, this would move rapidly - I would prefer a 15-week exposure. I find that mathematical and statistical arguments need some time to sink in. The remainder of this review will be comments I had as I read the book.

Chapter 2 – Plots. Weiss emphasizes the need for plots to inform model specification. These will include mean response over time, variance/standard deviation over time, within-subject correlation, and the effect of covariates on these quantities. He emphasizes the need to connect the points within subjects across the time profile. Without this, there is a jumble of points with no sense of order. With the connection, it may be possible to extract meaning. If there are many subjects, one can get a plot that resembles a plate of spaghetti. To compensate for this, one can plot fewer subjects. The restriction can be by number of subjects, treatment group or other group. Weiss provides examples of profile plots that show random intercepts with constant population mean, random intercepts with increasing population time trend, random slopes with fixed intercepts, and a fixed quadratic response (fig 2.5). This is extremely helpful to readers. He discusses transformations – particularly log transforms as being helpful in separating response patterns. He does not note that he has been responsible for many of the developments in longitudinal data plotting. Throughout the chapter, the book emphasizes the exploratory nature of plotting and indeed, much of modeling efforts. There is little emphasis on hypothesis tests. Another issue facing the statistician is which variables to plot by day, site, covariates. This is a minor point, as most of us will be overly generous with our plots.

Chapter 3 – Simple analyses. The chapter begins with noting the simplest univariate summary of longitudinal data is the within subject mean. He notes potential problems when the number (or timing) of observations differs among subjects. A second summary is one of change. He notes that the within subject slope is useful. I note that clinical researchers often want to use a change score – the difference between the first and last measurement. This has several problems: it ignores intermediate data that can provide a better (smaller standard deviation) estimate of the slope; subjects may have different numbers of observations, so the difference refers to different times from baseline. Another important analysis is that of differences of differences. When comparing two treatments, it may be useful to examine the difference in change score. If there are only two times of measurement, this is appropriate. If there are many times, comparing the slopes may be better. The final section of the chapter discusses using subsets of the data. The reasons are to omit subjects or observations not in the population of interest, to ignore variables of little or no interest, to produce a manageable data set, to produce a subset of the data for which a particular known analysis may be applied. The first and second reasons are sensible to me. The third reason (manageable data set) is less attractive, although he mentions the case of huge data sets in which we have no hope of obtaining helpful plots. However, I prefer not to omit data. In particular, one would need to omit cases in a manner that does not bias the analysis – e.g., omit all subjects with a particular characteristic. The fourth reason seems to me to be less acceptable since it implies either that the statistician does not know the right analysis or that he/she does not have the right software. He does not strongly advocate this reason.

Chapter 4 – Critiques of Simple Analyses. The overview Weiss gives summarizes the chapter nicely. "Omitting subjects is bad because it leads to increased standard errors." "Omitting subjects with missing data can cause bias." "Analyzing a subset of times is bad because it ignores relevant information and causes increased standard errors." "Summaries ignore the complexity inherent in longitudinal data." "To combat prejudice against complex statistical analyses, one must know why simple analyses are not optimal and how complex statistical analyses improve on them." To these I would add that ignoring a subset of times (e.g., the first and last observations) make it difficult or impossible to detect curvature in the data. Once again, this chapter demonstrates good statistical practice that we all should aspire to.

Chapter 5 – The Multivariate Normal Linear Model – This is largely well known material and covers the ground well. I may have found a typographical error in equation 5.5 in that a divisor of  $n$  is missing. There is also a small problem on the previous page (p. 120) where the standard error of the estimated mean at time  $j$  is given as  $s_{ij}^{1/2}/n$ . For a book of almost 400 pages, I only found one other. In looking at regression models for longitudinal data (p. 131), he considers a 3rd degree polynomial model. He does not mention it here, but either centring time or using splines may be helpful and reduce computational issues. He suggests making prediction plots (showing how each subject's predicted values behave as a function of time).

Chapter 6 – Tools and Concepts – This chapter discusses likelihood ratio tests; model selection: covariance model selection, fixed effects model selection, AIC and BIC, problems with forward selection and backward elimination; Maximum likelihood and restricted maximum likelihood; normality assumptions, computational issues: lack of convergence, maximizing a likelihood, function maximization, ridges, collinearity; Back transformation of transformed response; design considerations. He gives a nice explanation of AIC (Akaike information criterion) and BIC (Bayes information criterion) (surprisingly few texts do this, and most computer programs assume the user has this knowledge). He notes there are variants to these and that it is important to know if the computer program uses a "larger is better" or "smaller is better" version. In discussing forward and backward selection, he notes that one has multiple testing issues, the effect of many potential interactions. He does not mention the problem of missing data among the covariates. In my experience, this has led to removing much of the data, and leads to comparisons among different data sets. In one data set I was working with, 1/3 of the data were missing on one covariate, and it appeared to be an important predictor of the response. I created two models – one with the covariate and one without. On p. 164-167, he discusses transformations of the form  $Y(\lambda) = Y^\lambda$  when  $\lambda \neq 0$ , and  $\ln(Y)$  if  $\lambda = \text{zero}$ . This is the Box-Cox family. I note that when  $\lambda$  is estimated from the data, the precision of  $\lambda$  may be poor since the likelihood is usually flat near the maximum. It is also problematic when the distribution of  $Y$  is a mixture (as one would expect). On page 171, there is a nice discussion of the cost and efficiency of longitudinal data compared with simple random sampling.

Chapter 7 – Specifying Covariates – these include specifying the mean when there is no time trend, modeling a time trend by a polynomial, and modeling it by a more complex function of time. He then considers covariates which may be continuous, discrete, and time-fixed or time-varying. Weiss discusses two and three way interactions with time. Finally, he discusses how to adjust for baseline in analysis. He comments on various parameterizations for data models. These vary among computer programs and it is important to understand what parameterization the program uses, and how to change it if needed. He discusses accuracy and notes that it is important to carry full accuracy until the results are displayed. At that time, one can perform appropriate rounding. This should be second nature to statisticians, but it certainly is not to much of the scientific community.

Chapter 8 – Modeling the covariance matrix – I found this chapter the hardest to read in the book. It covers various forms of parameterized covariance models: compound symmetry, random intercept, autoregressive, independence, random intercept and slope, independent increments, antedependence, factor analytic, Toeplitz or Banded, Unstructured. He also covers non-constant variance models. Most of the models can be specified directly, but some (e.g., antedependence) need careful study to specify properly. While many of these models can improve the fit of the data, my experience has suggested that the step of moving away from independence is extremely important and a compound symmetry or AR (1) model will often capture much of the important structure. Of course, it will not be the best model.

Chapter 9 – Random Effects Models – The overview states: "Random effects models are hierarchical models with two levels." "Data sets may have three or more levels! We include additional random effects into the data set for each level." "The marginal model is the random effect model written in the multivariate linear regression model form." "Random effects estimates are shrinkage estimates." In this chapter (p. 307) there is another typo – an  $X$  matrix is defined as  $n_i \times p$ , while

the coefficients are  $K \times 1$ . The  $p$  should be  $K$ . He provides some terrific examples here: one for the equations for the regression coefficients, and another for shrinkage (p. 321)

Chapter 10 – Residuals and Case Diagnostics – Residuals are widely used in general linear models. Weiss notes two types of residuals: within-subject residuals and population residuals. These are, of course, the difference between the observed value  $Y_{ij}$  and a fitted value. If the predicted value is from only the subject we have the within-subject residual, while if we compute the predicted value on all subjects, we have a population residual. The "studentized" residual takes the observed difference and divides it by the variance of the residual (p. 328). Some authors suggest a deleted residual in which the observation being checked is removed from the prediction equation. These residuals identify outlying observations, but they have the downside that if there are multiple outlying observations, the procedure may not be sensitive to them. He notes that we can identify multiple outlying observations with a likelihood ratio test. However, this implies that the candidate outliers are identified (sometimes a simple task, other times not). He also discusses influence statistics, in particular Cook's distance, and notes that this can have two forms: one in which the investigator deletes only the  $j^{\text{th}}$  observation for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  subject, and one in which the  $i^{\text{th}}$  subject is deleted. Weiss provides nice illustrations of these from the example data sets.

Chapter 11 – Discrete Longitudinal Data – This chapter discusses longitudinal binary data, and count data. These lead to the logistic and Poisson random effects models. For longitudinal binary data, the investigator assumes that  $Y_{ij}$  is Bernoulli with parameter  $\pi_{ij}$ . Then we model  $\pi_{ij}$  that relates it to the fixed effects,  $x_{ij}^T \alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  are the regression coefficients. We model the correlation within subjects by introducing a random effect for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  subject,  $\alpha_{i1}$ . Then the model is  $\text{logit}(\pi_{ij}) = x_{ij}^T \alpha + \beta_{i1}$ . Here  $\beta_{i1}$  is assumed  $N(0, D)$ . Similarly, for count data, one assumes  $Y_{ij}$  is Poisson with parameter  $\lambda_{ij}$ , and models  $\ln(Y_{ij}) = x_{ij}^T \alpha + \beta_i$ . Again,  $\beta_i$  is assumed  $N(0, D)$ . More general forms of both models are possible. The book notes that some problems arise in fitting these models. They are non-linear and require a mixture of numerical integration and function maximization, so the fitting may be time consuming and inaccurate. Some problems may fail to converge.

Chapter 12 – Missing Data – There are several types of missing data. First, some questions may be collected on a subset of subjects or at a subset of times. This is designed missingness and can be analyzed directly. Second, subjects may drop out. This is often informative as subjects drop out if they perceive a treatment to be ineffective, or they die, or there is an adverse event. Third, measurement at a time may be missing. This intermittent dropout can occur when a subject is temporarily indisposed. Both of the latter two methods may be informative as the status of the subject may be related to the missingness. Sometimes a missing value may be due to a subject moving from the area or an issue with their family and this may be unrelated to the subject's status. Generally, missingness tends to be informative, and this makes inference more difficult. These lead to imputation methods. Some reasons for missingness suggest a natural imputation. For example, if a subject drops from the study due to death, it would suggest that their imputed values should be the worst possible value on the response. Dropout due to non-response or adverse events suggests imputed values be the worst observed value

Chapter 13 – Analyzing Two Longitudinal Variables – The overview states: "Bivariate longitudinal data occur commonly in practice." "Using one response as a time-varying covariate for the other response is a flawed approach to analyzing the joint distribution of the two longitudinal variables." "Rather, one should model the joint covariance of the two longitudinal variables...Bivariate random intercept and special cases, bivariate random intercept and slope, unstructured covariance model, product correlation models." The chapter provides some theory and examples of these. On page 383, Weiss apparently is testing variances and covariances with a t-test. I am not sure why this was done.

Chapter 14 – Further reading – the book concludes with a variety of directions to useful references. Weiss enhances the book with short quotes at the beginning of the chapters that are relevant and interesting. The book has a slow and careful development of methods (especially the non-longitudinal tools) and continues these with the longitudinal methods. I recommend this book highly.

## Book Review by Tiberiu Postelnicu (Romania)

S. Chevret (Editor)

Statistical Methods for Dose-Finding Experiments

Wiley (2006) 0 470 86123 1

This book is an important collaboration from the leading experts in the area of the use of statistical techniques in a wide range of applications. Dose-finding experiments define the safe dosage of a drug in development, in terms of the quantity given to a patient. Statistical methods play a crucial role in identifying optimal dosage. Used appropriately, these methods provide reliable results and reduce trial duration and costs. In practice, however, dose-finding is often done poorly, with widely used conventional methods frequently being unreliable, leading to inaccurate results. There have been many advances in recent years, with new statistical techniques being developed and it is important that these new techniques are used correctly. The book reviews the main statistical approaches for dose-finding in phase I/II clinical trials and presents practical guidance on their correct use. In the setting of phase I, the event of interest is usually the dose-limiting toxicities, whereas in phase II it is rather some measure of treatment response or failure.

Part I is "General Principles and Controversial Issues in Dose-Findings" and aims at summarizing the main concepts in dose-finding mostly from a statistical (Sylvie Chevret) or a philosophical (Robert Hemmings) point of view. Part II focuses on the main "Algorithm-Based Approaches" namely the traditional and modified algorithm-based designs for phase I cancer clinical trials (Weichung Joe Shih and Yong Lin).

Next, accelerated titration designs (Janet Dancey, Boris Freidlin, Larry Rubinstein) and group up-and-down designs in toxicity studies (Anna Ivanova and Nancy Flournoy) are considered. Part III refers to "Model-Based Approaches" such as the continual reassessment method (Sylvie Chevret and Sarah Zohar) and some related methods, namely the dose-escalation with overdose control design (Mourad Tighiouart and Andre Rogatko) and Bayesian decision theory approaches (John Whitehead) with special attention to dose-findings in healthy volunteers (Y. Zhou).

Part IV called "Future Trends for Past Issues" highlights main issues in dose-finding such as how to stop such trials early, how to cope with delayed or ordinal outcomes, with two cytotoxic drugs or with both efficacy and toxicity. The chapters are the following: Defining stopping rules (Sarah Zohar), Dose-finding with delayed binary outcomes in cancer trials (Ying Kuen Cheung), Dose-finding based on multiple ordinal toxicities in phase I oncology trials (B. Nebiyou Bekele and Peter F. Thall), A two-stage design for dose-finding with two agents (Peter F. Thall), Using both efficacy and toxicity for dose-finding (Peter F. Thall and John D. Cook). At the end, in Part V, some of the main websites and software to implement published methods, as well as conclusions are given (Sarah Zohar). A number of 22 references, a short Appendix containing random number generators and an Index are the last pages.

This is a well-written book, useful for both medical statisticians, as well as interested clinicians planning early phase trials. Also of high interest are the numerous worked examples making use of real data. Primarily aimed at statisticians and clinicians working in clinical trials and medical research, the book also has much to benefit graduate students of biostatistics.

## Book Review by Janez Stare (Slovenia)

David Collett

Modelling Survival Data in Medical Research (Second Edition)

Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2003) 1-58488-325-1

Let me start with an overall assessment: this is a good book. This means that it achieves what it sets out to do. Of course, some people will like this more and that less, and for some there will be too much of that and not enough of this, but this is always so.

The author claims the book to be a comprehensive practical account of statistical methods for survival data. It is certainly practical; comprehensiveness will be judged differently by different readers. I'd say that the author had very good judgement as to the material to be included, and that he included everything one would commonly need when confronted with survival data. For those less frequent additional needs, there is a chapter called Some additional topics, more or less only mentioning informative censoring, shared frailty models, competing risks, explained variation, and cure models. One can continue from the references given there.

The expected audience is statisticians in the pharmaceutical and medical field, students in undergraduate and postgraduate courses in survival analysis, and also other scientists who would want to analyze their own data. Because of this last group quite some material, judged by the author to be more difficult, is found in starred sections. I am not sure how many non-statisticians actually dig into survival analysis deep enough to be able to analyze data, but I think that starred sections contain material that should not be skipped by statisticians. Especially since the level of mathematics in those sections is not really different from the rest of the book. The audience that I think would profit most from this book is statisticians, beginners or old hands, who are new to survival analysis. The book will give them a good feel for survival data, just enough theory to keep them happy, and lots of examples to check their understanding.

Let me now take you through the contents:

After a short introductory chapter, explaining the special features of survival data, and introducing the survival and hazard functions, the second chapter introduces Kaplan-Meier and Nelson-Aalen estimators of the survival and hazard functions, and the log rank test for comparing survival functions (two and more) and for trend. Everything is carefully presented, with a lot of examples (as is the case throughout the book). There is even a section on hypothesis testing which I felt was unnecessary. One small complaint: I'd like to see the claim that 'the Nelson - Aalen estimate has been shown to perform better than the Kaplan - Meier estimate' supported by a reference. And praise: this may be the only book that shows that Nelson - Aalen estimate is always greater than the Kaplan

- Meier. A fact not well known, but which somehow makes me doubt the previous statement.

The fifty-five pages of chapter 3 are mainly devoted to the proportional hazards model. They contain a description of the model, the fitting of the model, testing hypotheses about the coefficients, model selection, and estimation of the baseline hazard and survival function. My major complaint here refers to derivation of the estimation of the baseline hazard in the starred section 3.8. It starts with a formula which is not derived, so everything follows from something one can not check. Including the Breslow estimate which could easily be derived in a different way.

Chapter 4 is about Cox model diagnostics and it takes us through the most common types of residuals (Cox-Snell, martingale, deviance, Schoenfeld), searching for influential observations, and common procedures for checking the proportional hazards assumption. Again, everything is nicely explained and illustrated with examples.

The next three chapters are about parametric models. The story starts slowly with the exponential and Weibull models without covariates, and proceeds with inclusion of a single binary covariate, before allowing any number of variables in the model. I liked the chapter on accelerated failure time models best, I can't really say why. I'm guessing the author has a special inclination for these models, and this shows through. I hope he develops the same for the non-parametric version of linear models and includes them in the third edition. For now we only have a reference to Wei (1992), wrongfully accused of having introduced those models.

The material of chapter 8 on time-dependent variables could maybe be included in some other chapter, but the material on the next two subjects, interval-censored data and sample size requirements, while short, certainly deserve chapters on their own. Interval censored data arise much more often than we are ready to admit, and sample size requirements rarely make it into a book on survival analysis.

The book ends with a chapter on additional topics which I already mentioned, and a chapter on using SAS in survival analysis. I don't use SAS so I can't really comment on this. Four appendices follow, three giving some more theoretical results, and the fourth presenting five additional data sets. All of the data sets used in the book are available for download from [www.crcpress.com/e\\_products/downloads](http://www.crcpress.com/e_products/downloads). To sum up: the author presents a broad range of well chosen material, the book is very well written with a consistent level of difficulty, and the theory is richly illustrated with many examples. There are no exercises, again maybe something to be added in the third edition.

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# Statistics in Medicine

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## ISCB GENERAL INFORMATION

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<b>Publishing dates:    Jun    2007 (and deadlines)        Dec    2007</b>	<b>early May 2007 early Nov 2007</b>
<b>Adverts sent to the ISCB emailing list of approximately 800 current and recent members:</b>	<b>€ 750 for 4 emails/year € 300 for a single email</b>
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#### **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 (Word, HTML or text) on almost any topic are most welcome. This is an informal newsletter for you the readers, so please join in and make ISCB News a magazine that's even more interesting and fun to read.

## ISCB Office and Executive Committee: Contact Details

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<b>President: Emmanuel Lesaffre</b>	Catholic University Leuven, Biostatistical Centre, U.Z. St. Rafael, Kapucynenvoer 35, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium	+32 16 336 896	+32 16 336 900	emmanuel.lesaffre@med.kuleuven.be
<p><i>Professor of Biostatistics and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. My areas of research include the analysis of correlated data (e.g. repeated measurements, longitudinal studies, clustered data analysis, spatial models), models for missing data, the analysis of interval censored data, correction for measurement error/misclassification, measuring agreement, Bayesian methods and in general the developments of new approaches in the clinical trial area (e.g. sequential methodology).</i></p> <p><i>I have served the Society as an Executive Committee member from 1999, the first two years as an ordinary member, then four years as Secretary followed by two years of Vice-President. I am looking forward to serve the Society as your next President. It is an exciting opportunity to help the Society to progress in the coming years. I believe that our Society and its activities are not yet enough known in the statistical world. Therefore, we need to enhance the collaboration with other statistical societies but also with epidemiological and medical societies. I believe that this is the way to show that our Society is the place to exchange ideas between statisticians and medical/epidemiological researchers about the development of new statistical methodology but also about the usefulness of existing approaches. Finally, I strongly believe that the future of our Society lies in the hands of our students. It is of great importance that we can attract them to our annual meetings and to our Society activities. Any suggestions which help to realise this are welcome.</i></p>				
<b>Vice-President: Norbert Victor</b>	Institut für Medizinische Biometrie und Informatik, Im Neuenheimer Feld 305, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany	+49 6221 56 4140	+49 6221 56 4195	victor@imbi.uni-heidelberg.de
<p><i>Professor of Biostatistics and Chair of the Department of Medical Biometry and Informatics, Medical Faculty, Ruprecht-Karls-University, Heidelberg, Germany. Main activities are biostatistical consulting of clinical research and responsibility for the conduct and analysis of clinical trials. Methodological areas of interest are multiplicity problems in testing, heterogeneity in Meta-Analyses and flexible designs in clinical trials.</i></p> <p><i>I have served ISCB as an Executive Committee member since 2000, and was Treasurer from 2003-06. In 1999, I organised ISCB20 in Heidelberg. As Vice-President, I will try to enlarge the fields of activity of the society, and herewith to increase membership. I would like to make our meetings a discussion forum of all scientists involved in clinical and epidemiological research: Biostatisticians, trialists with medical background and epidemiologists.</i></p>				
<b>Secretary: Harbajan Chadha-Boreham</b>	Rue Porot, F-21440 Francheville, France	+33 3 80 35 17 59		Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com
<p><i>Senior Biostatistician in the Department of Biometry, Actelion Pharmaceutical Ltd., Basel, Switzerland. My main activities in pharmaceutical statistics involve design, conduct, analysis and reporting of clinical trials and epidemiology studies across a variety of therapeutic areas.</i></p> <p><i>I joined the ISCB in 1993 and have been an active member of the Society; firstly as a member of the ISCB Subcommittee on Statistics in Regulatory Affairs and later as Chair of the Local Organising Committee of ISCB23 Conference held in Dijon, France. In 2003 I set up the ISCB Subcommittee on Conference Organising; we have developed the "Conference Organising Guidelines" to help the organisers of future conferences. Linked to Conference Organising, the Subcommittee has created facilities for storing documents from past conferences on the ISCB website. As a member of the newly formed ISCB Subcommittee on Membership, I have been involved with ideas for promoting our Society to increase its membership. I have served on the ISCB Executive Committee for four years, firstly as a member for two years and then as Secretary, taking care of the quarterly teleconferences of the ExCom, the Annual ExCom and General Meetings. As Secretary, I would continue looking after the organisational aspects of the meetings and as an Officer of the ExCom, I would like to help ISCB maintain its unique and friendly character while providing high quality and successful annual meetings.</i></p>				
<b>Treasurer: Koos Zwinderman</b>	Academic Medical Centre, Dept. of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of Amsterdam, PO Box 22660, NL-1100 DD Amsterdam, Netherlands	+31 20 5665820	+31 20 6912683	a.h.zwinderman@amc.uva.nl
<p><i>Professor of biostatistics at the department of Clinical Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at the Academic Medical Center of the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. I was trained as a mathematician and psychologist at the university of Groningen (Netherlands) and obtained my PhD at the University of Nijmegen (Netherlands). My thesis concerned consistency of estimators and goodness of fit tests of the random-effects logistic regression model. My biostatistical interests are - amongst others - statistical genetics, repeated measures and monitoring, clinical trials, meta-analysis, and I was involved in numerous clinical trials and epidemiological research projects.</i></p> <p><i>I have been a member of ISCB for over 15 years, and was a member of the ExCom for the period 2003- 2006.</i></p>				
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## Election Results!

From John Whitehead (President), Emmanuel Lesaffre (Vice-President) and Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (Secretary)

The Constitution requires a 'postal' ballot to vote on membership of the Executive Committee. Previous ISCB ballots on 2002 and 2004 have been conducted by email, and on the occasion of the ballot in November 2004, Simon Day, serving as ISCB Elections Officer, explained the advantages and disadvantages of postal and email ballots in the Newsletter. Due to the successful conduct of these email ballots, the current ballot was also conducted electronically with a closing date of 13 November 2006.

At the time the voting papers were sent, the Society had 800 members. Members with no email addresses were asked (by post) to inform the ISCB Permanent Office of their e-address. Thirty-eight members could not be reached by email (9 with no email address and 29 email failures), leaving 762 voting members, of whom 223 voted. The votes were counted at the ISCB Office and checked independently by an ISCB member, Ingrid S. Harbo.

Members could vote for up to 8 of the 9 candidates. The following 8 candidates have been elected to serve on the Executive Committee for the period January 2007 to December 2008:

Adriano Decarli Italy  
 KyungMann Kim USA  
 Peter Lachenbruch USA  
 Rumana Omar United Kingdom  
 Catherine Quantin France  
 Jeno Reiczigel Hungary  
 Marie Reilly Sweden  
 Martin Schumacher Germany

No ballot was needed for the President as the outgoing Vice-President fills in this position. As there was only 1 nomination for each of the other three Officers' positions, a ballot was not needed. The Executive Committee will thus have the following four Officers for the period January 2007 to December 2008:

Emmanuel Lesaffre Belgium	President
Norbert Victor Germany	Vice-President
Harbajan Chadha-Boreham Switzerland	Secretary
Koos Zwinderman Netherlands	Treasurer

National Groups: Continuation for 2007 - 2010 for the ISCB National Groups in Hungary, Poland and Romania was also approved

We thank all those Members who stood for election, the Nominations Committee for handling the nomination forms and the ISCB Office for arranging the email ballot.

## ISCB Membership and Yahoogroup Emailing List

From Rita Schou (ISCB Office) and David W. Warne (Yahoogroup Administrator)

Did you know we try to make sure our membership database (in Denmark) is kept up to date? We also have an electronic mailing list called [iscb@yahoogroups.com](mailto:iscb@yahoogroups.com), which allows members from the current and past year to be contacted to discuss statistical ideas and to receive news about ISCB events. From time to time we compare the 2 databases and if we find you've got 2 email addresses, we'll ask which you prefer.

If you haven't done so already, please send us your email address to allow us to contact you more easily. If you've sent us your email, but haven't accepted the invitation to join the [iscb yahoogroup](#), please accept the next invitation by pressing Reply-Send. Rest assured that no company will send you any junk email - all emails are checked by the Office or the Yahoogroup Administrator.

## ISCB Subcommittees: Contact Details

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>1. To consider the future of the Newsletter, including ways to support the Editor, procedures for transition of editorship.</li> <li>2. To maintain the ISCB homepage on the World Wide Web and facilitate placement of annual meeting information on the homepage.</li> <li>3. To consider other communications with members, such as through email or the World Wide Web.</li> </ol>	<b>Chair:</b> David W Warne (CH) <b>Secretary:</b> Bjarne Nielsen (DK) <b>Members:</b> Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I), Harry Southworth (UK) John Whitehead (UK)	david_w_warne@ bluewin.ch  bn@ Cyncron.dk  grazia.valsecchi@ unimib.it  harry_southworth@ googlemail.com j.r.whitehead@ reading.ac.uk
Conference Organising iscb-conf-org@ yahoogroups.com	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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>2. Document processes and systems for assisting ISCB conference organisers.</li> <li>3. 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> Emmanuel Lesaffre (B)  Bjarne Nielsen (DK) Catherine Quantin (F)  Norbert Victor (D) John Whitehead (UK) Koos Zwinderman (NL) David W Warne (CH) Giota Touloumi (GR)	Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@ Actelion.Com  emmanuel.lesaffre@ med.kuleuven.be bn@ Cyncron.dk catherine.quantin@ chu-dijon.fr victor@ imbi.uni-heidelberg.de j.r.whitehead@ reading.ac.uk a.h.zwinderman@ amc.uva.nl david_w_warne@ bluewin.ch gtouloum@ med.uoa.gr
Dentistry iscb-dentist@ yahoogroups.com	The aims are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bring together statisticians who have a major interest in dental statistics</li> <li>2. Review the statistical quality of the current dental clinical trials</li> <li>3. Promote education and research on statistical methods in dentistry</li> <li>4. 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),  Maria-Jose Garcia-Zattera (B) Heidi Huber (USA)	emmanuel.Lesaffre@ med.kuleuven.be  ckr3@ pitt.edu I.Needleman@ eastman.ucl.ac.uk MariaJose.GarciaZattera@ med.kuleuven.be hmrich@ pitt.edu
Education iscb-education@ yahoogroups.com	To support and organise one or two day courses on contemporary methods in clinical biostatistics in locations represented by the Society. Guidelines and a list of courses offered in the past are available.	<b>Chair/Secretary:</b> Rumana Omar (UK) <b>Members:</b> Mike Campbell (UK), Nicole Close (USA), Carol Redmond (USA), Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I), Havi Murad (ISR), Elisabeth Svensson (S), Catherine Quantin (F)  Jenö Reiczigel (H) Eric Cobo (E)	Rumana@ stats.ucl.ac.uk  m.j.campbell@ sheffield.ac.uk ncclose@ yahoo.com ckr3@ pitt.edu grazia.valsecchi@ unimib.it  havim@ gertner.health.gov.il elisabeth.svensson@ esi.oru.se catherine.quantin@ chu-dijon.fr jreiczig@ univet.hu erik.cobo@ upc.edu



## How to Contact the ISCB Subcommittees (continued)

Title & Email	Terms of Reference	Members	Email addresses
Membership	To explore strategies to increase the ISCB membership by means of: 1. Highlighting the unique position of the ISCB, i.e. bringing together clinicians, methodologists, epidemiologists and biostatisticians 2. Make strategic links with medical and epidemiological societies in order to make publicity at their meetings and bring clinicians/epidemiologists with a methodological/biostatistical interest to our ISCB meeting 3. Widen the geographical spread of the ISCB members 4. Ensure the regeneration of our current core membership. 5. Provide guidelines for future conference organisers on choosing a scientific programme committee that will help in widening membership	<b>Chair/Secretary:</b> Emmanuel Lesaffre (B)  <b>Members:</b> Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH), Norbert Victor (D),  John Whitehead (UK) KyungMann Kimm (USA), Toshiro Tango (JPN), Michal Abrahamowicz (CDN)	emmanuel.Lesaffre@med.kuleuven.be  Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com victor@imbi.uni-heidelberg.de j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk kmkim@biostat.wisc.edu  tango@niph.go.jp michal@epimgh.mcgill.ca
National Groups  Isccb-national-groups@yahoogroups.com	1. To help those who are interested in forming a National Group through the approval process. 2. To review the arrangements with the current National Groups, specifically regarding financial matters. 3. To set rules and standards for funding of ISCB members of National Groups and others from countries with exchange control restrictions or barriers. 4. The Subcommittee administers the Conference Awards for Scientists for the annual ISCB meetings.	<b>Chair/Secretary:</b> Julia Singer (B), <b>Members:</b> Elia Biganzoli (I), Krista Fischer (EST) Ewa Kawalec (PL), Catherine Quantin (F)  Norbert Victor (D),  John Whitehead (UK)	jlsngr@gmail.com  elia.biganzoli@unimi.it Krista.Fischer@ut.ee mxkawale@cyf-kr.edu.pl catherine.quantin@chudijon.fr victor@imbi.uni-heidelberg.de j.r.whitehead@reading.ac.uk
Statistics in Regulatory Affairs  isccb-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/Secretary::</b> Jørgen Seldrup (F)  <b>Members:</b> Helmut Schäfer (D),  Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH), Christoph Gerlinger (D),  Anna Petroccione (I)  Martin Schumacher (D)	Jorgen.seldrup@quintiles.com  hsimbe@med.uni-marburg.de Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com Christoph.Gerlinger@Schering.de anna.petroccione@nervianoms.com ms@imbi.uni-freiburg.de
Student Conference Awards  isccb-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> KyungMann Kim (USA) <b>Members:</b> Marc Buyse (B), Bruno Cesana (I), Jan Lanke (S), Marie Reilly (S) Vana Sypsa (GR)	kmkim@biostat.wisc.edu  Marc.Buyse@iddi.com cesana@med.unibs.it jan.lanke@stat.lu.se Marie.Reilly@ki.se vsipsa@cc.uoa.gr

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.

Meetings in recent years have been held in Dijon (2002), London (2003), Leiden (2004), Szeged (2005) and Geneva (2006) and the next meeting will be held in Alexandroupolis (2007). 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.



The composition of the **Executive Committee** (ExCom) for 2007 is as follows:

### Officers:

President: Emmanuel Lesaffre (B),  
Vice-President: Norbert Victor (D),  
Secretary: Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH),  
Treasurer: Koos Zwinderman (NL).

### Members:

News Editor: David W. Warne (CH),  
Webmaster: Bjarne Nielsen (DK),  
Past-President: John Whitehead (UK),  
Members: Adriano Decarli (I),  
KyungMann Kim (USA), Peter Lachenbruch (USA), Rumana Omar (UK), Catherine Quantin (F), Jenő Reiczigel (H), Marie Reilly (S), Martin Schumacher (D).

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**


**Membership** of the Society is open to all with an interest in biostatistics. The current annual (to 31 December 2007) 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  
www: http://www.iscb.info

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL BIostatISTICS  
2007 Membership Subscription**

Surname: _____		First Name _____	
Title (Prof/Dr/etc): _____		Post held: _____	
Address: _____ _____			
Post code and country: _____			
Phone No: _____		Email: _____	
Fax No: _____		<b>Please provide your email address as it will be used to send you the ISCB News in the future.</b>	
<b>SUBSCRIPTION:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinary membership of ISCB (to 31 December 2007):		Euros (EUR) 40.00	
(please tick only one) <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time Student Membership of ISCB (to 31 December 2007):		Euros (EUR) 20.00	
<b>(students should provide a letter from their supervisor or head of department)</b>			
Have you previously been a member of ISCB? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>PAYMENT IS MADE BY:</b>			
<b>Credit Card Authorisation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> VISA Electron <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Euro Card <input type="checkbox"/> JCB			
Signature: _____		Date: _____	
Your name on credit card:	Card number to debit (16 digits):	Validation code (3 digits) (CVC/CVV)	Expiry date (MM/YY):
_____	_____	_____	_____
from the back of your credit card			
<b>Cheque/Money Order:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> A cheque made payable in Euros – <b>drawn on a bank in the United Kingdom</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> A Money Order			
Cheque / Money Order No: (if known) _____		Date sent: _____	
Cheques must be made payable to the <b>International Society for Clinical Biostatistics</b> and returned with this form to the Permanent Office address.			
<b>Note:</b> Non-Euro cheques, bank cheques not drawn on a U.K. bank, and cheques not made payable to ISCB will be returned.			
Bank Transfer:		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Please transfer direct to:		Euro Account No. 6687 4511	
Barclays Bank plc		Bank Sort Code: 20-18-15	
PO Box 69		IBAN: GB28 BARC 2018 1566 8745 11	
121 Queen Street		SWIFT/BIC: BARCGB22	
Cardiff CF1 1SG			
UK			
Please return this form either by Email to:		office@iscb.info	
or by post to:		ISCB Permanent Office P.O. Box 130 Datavej 24 DK-3460 Birkerod Denmark	
Tel: +45 4567 2279			
Fax: +45 7022 1571			

## Calendar

**29 July - 02 August 2007**

**Alexandroupolis, Greece**

ISCB28  
Info: Vana Sypsa email: vsipsa@cc.uoa.gr, web: http://www.iscb2007.gr



For the latest conference info, see:

http://isi.cbs.nl/calendar.htm



Jan 23-25	The 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the International Biometric Society (EMR-IBS) will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Eilat, Israel. The 1 <sup>st</sup> day will be a special symposium in honor of Marvin Zelen 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday, under the joint auspices of EMR-IBS and the Harvard School of Public Health. <b>Information:</b> David Zucker, Statistics Department, Hebrew University, Israel <b>Phone:</b> 972-2-588-1291 <b>Fax:</b> 972-2-588-3549 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:mszucker@mscc.huji.ac.il">mszucker@mscc.huji.ac.il</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.congress.co.il/emr-ibs2007">http://www.congress.co.il/emr-ibs2007</a>
Feb 26-Mar 2	SADA'07: Colloque international de Statistique Appliquée pour le Développement en Afrique / <i>International Conference on Applied Statistics for Development in Africa</i> . La statistique: un outil d'aide à la prise de décision pour un développement durable en Afrique / <i>Statistics: a decision making tool for sustainable development in Africa</i> . <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:sada2007@univ-pau.fr">sada2007@univ-pau.fr</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://lma.univ-pau.fr/meet/sada2007">http://lma.univ-pau.fr/meet/sada2007</a>
Mar 25-29	Third Brazilian Conference on Statistical Modelling in Insurance and Finance, to be held in the Maresias Beach Hotel, Maresias, Brazil. The conference aims at providing a forum for the presentation of state-of-the-art research in the development, implementation, and real-world applications of statistical models in actuarial sciences and finance. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ubatuba@ime.usp.br">ubatuba@ime.usp.br</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.ime.usp.br/~ubatuba/3rd/">http://www.ime.usp.br/~ubatuba/3rd/</a>
Mar 27-30	Statistik unter einem Dach / Statistics under one roof, to be held in Bielfeld, Germany. The first joint statistical conference organized by DAGStat - Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Statistik/German Statistical Working Group - brings together academics and professionals from different areas of statistics, providing a platform for interdisciplinary research and exchange. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:dagstat2007@uni-bielefeld.de">dagstat2007@uni-bielefeld.de</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.statistik2007.de">www.statistik2007.de</a>
Apr 12-14	32 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Lectures in the Mathematical Sciences on the theme: "Spatial and Spatio-Temporal Statistics", to take place in Fayetteville, Arkansas, United States. The main goal of this Lecture Series is to bring together leading experts, young researchers and graduate students in the area of Spatial and Spatio-Temporal Statistics. <b>Information:</b> Victor De Oliveira <b>Phone:</b> 1-210-4586592 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:vdo@uark.edu">vdo@uark.edu</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://comp.uark.edu/~jjsong/SLS2007/">http://comp.uark.edu/~jjsong/SLS2007/</a>
May 6-12	The 8 <sup>th</sup> Séminaire Européen de Statistique on Statistics for Stochastic Differential Equation Systems will be held in La Manga del Mar Menor, Spain. The summer school is intended for up to 40 Postdocs and PhD students interested in the subject. Contributed talks or poster presentations are possible. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:semstat@upct.es">semstat@upct.es</a> <b>Local Organizer:</b> Mathieu Kessler <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.dmae.upct.es/semstat2007">www.dmae.upct.es/semstat2007</a>
May 25-27	Second International Conference on Cancer Risk Assessment (ICRA 2): Mathematical, Statistical and Computational Methods, to be held at the hotel Santorini Image on the island of Santorini, Greece. The aim of this conference is to provide a forum for the discussion and exchange of ideas, new concepts and recent methods in cancer risk assessment. Submission of Full Paper : January 28, 2007 Submission of Abstracts to the Conference : April 18, 2007 Please send your Abstract, Paper, or participation by email to the <b>Local Organizer:</b> Christos P. Kitsos email: <a href="mailto:ckitsos@teiath.gr">ckitsos@teiath.gr</a> , Dept. of Mathematics, Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Athens
May 29-Jun 1	XII <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis (ASMDA) Chania, Crete, Greece. The aim of ASMDA has been to serve as an interface between Stochastic Modeling and Data Analysis and their real life applications such as business, finance and insurance, management, production and reliability, biology and medicine. <b>Information:</b> Christos H. Skiadas, Technical University of Crete, Chania, Crete, Greece, <a href="mailto:skiadas@asmda.com">skiadas@asmda.com</a> . ASMDA 2007 Secretary: Anthei Katsirikou, <a href="mailto:anthei@asmda.com">anthei@asmda.com</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.asmda.com">www.asmda.com</a>
Jun 2-7	The Second Baltic-Nordic Conference on Survey Sampling, Kuusamo, Finland. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.mathstat.helsinki.fi/msm/banocoss/">http://www.mathstat.helsinki.fi/msm/banocoss/</a>
Jun 8-12	The 6 <sup>th</sup> International Workshop on "Objective Bayesian Analysis". The objective of OBayes6 is to facilitate the exchange of recent research developments in OBayes methodology and to establish new collaborations and partnerships. The workshop will consist of invited talks followed by a discussion and a poster session. <b>Tel and fax:</b> +390649766973 <b>Website:</b> For registration please visit : <a href="http://3w.eco.uniroma1.it/OB07">http://3w.eco.uniroma1.it/OB07</a> <b>Email:</b> For information please send email to <a href="mailto:brunero.liseo@uniroma1.it">brunero.liseo@uniroma1.it</a>
Jun 9-13	The 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5S7 Canada. For information, contact the Local Arrangements Chair : Brajendra Sutradhar, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Memorial University of Newfoundland <b>Information:</b> Brajendra Sutradhar (Local Arrangements Chair) <b>Phone:</b> (709) 737-8731 <b>Fax:</b> (709) 737-8731 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bsutradh@math.mun.ca">bsutradh@math.mun.ca</a>
Jun 18-21	The Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III) will be held at the Hyatt Regency Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada. ICES-III will explore the current state of the art. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ices3@census.gov">ices3@census.gov</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007">http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007</a>

Jun 25-29	The bi-annual conference of the European Survey Research Association ESRA 2007, hosted by the University of Economics and the Czech Statistical Office in Prague, Czech Republic. Offers sessions on methodological issues of statistical surveys such as design, data collection or analysis. <b>Information:</b> Martin Zeleny <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:esra2007@vse.cz">esra2007@vse.cz</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://esra2007.vse.cz/">http://esra2007.vse.cz/</a>
Jul 9-11	The 5 <sup>th</sup> international conference on multiple comparison procedures will be held in Vienna, Austria. The conference intends to bring statisticians from academy, industry and regulatory agencies together to present new research findings in multiple testing. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.mcp-conference.org">http://www.mcp-conference.org</a>
Jul 29-Aug 2	Joint Statistical Meeting, organized by the American Statistical Association and to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. To be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center. <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.amstat.org/meetings">www.amstat.org/meetings</a>
Jul 29-Aug 2	The 28 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB 28) will take place in Alexandroupolis, Greece and aims to provide a forum for the exchange of methods, applications and theory of biostatistics in medical research and practice among clinicians, statisticians and members of other relevant disciplines. <b>Information:</b> Vana Sypsa Chair of the Local Organising Committee: Giota Touloumi Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee: Mike Kenward <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:vsipsa@cc.uoa.gr">vsipsa@cc.uoa.gr</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.iscb2007.gr">www.iscb2007.gr</a>
Aug 11-17	The Fifth International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking, and Literacy (SRTL-5), to be held in the University of Warwick, Coventry, U.K. Reasoning about Statistical Inference: Innovative Ways of Connecting Chance and Data <b>Local Organisers:</b> Janet Ainley, <a href="mailto:janet.ainley@warwick.ac.uk">janet.ainley@warwick.ac.uk</a> Dave Pratt, <a href="mailto:dave.pratt@warwick.ac.uk">dave.pratt@warwick.ac.uk</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://srtl.stat.auckland.ac.nz/">http://srtl.stat.auckland.ac.nz/</a>
Aug 18-20	ISBIS is planning a Satellite Meeting to the <b>ISI Biennial Session in Lisbon, Portugal</b> . This Meeting will be held in Azores, hosted by the University of Azores. Details will be announced as they become available. <b>Information:</b> Bovas Abraham <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:babraham@uwaterloo.ca">babraham@uwaterloo.ca</a>
Aug 20-22	The International Microsimulation Association is celebrating the 50 year anniversary of Guy Orcutt's original paper on the statistical modelling of socio-economic systems (a.k.a. microsimulation or microanalytic simulation) by hosting its 1 <sup>st</sup> General Conference in Vienna. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:IMA2007@euro.centre.org">IMA2007@euro.centre.org</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.microsimulation.org/IMA/IMA_2007_conference.htm">www.microsimulation.org/IMA/IMA_2007_conference.htm</a>
Aug 22-29	<b>International Statistical Institute, 56<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, the International Association for Statistical Education, the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics, the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics, to be held in Lisboa, Portugal <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.isi2007.com.pt/">http://www.isi2007.com.pt/</a>
Aug 30-Sep 1	The <b>IASC</b> is organising an International Conference on Statistics for Data Mining, Learning and Knowledge Extraction, as a Satellite Conference of the <b>56<sup>th</sup> Session of the ISI</b> . The Conference will take place in Aveiro, Portugal. Carlos Ferreira (University of Aveiro), Manuela Souto de Miranda (University of Aveiro) and Paula Brito (University of Porto) are in charge of the local organisation. The purpose of this Meeting is to foster the interaction of researchers in the interface between computational statistics, data mining, knowledge discovery and statistical learning <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.mat.ua.pt/iasc07/">http://www.mat.ua.pt/iasc07/</a>
Sep 3-7	An <b>IASC-ERS</b> Summer School on Data Mining and Statistical Learning Techniques will take place in Italy. The Summer School is locally organised by the Second University of Naples, the University of Naples "Federico II", the University of Oriente and the University of Benevento. In the context of the Data Mining process, the main goal is to discover knowledge from large database using statistical learning techniques. The IASC-ERS school is intended to achieve postgraduate training in special areas of statistics. The participants are expected to have a good background in statistics at the Ph.D. level, although not necessarily oriented to the subject of the course. Also, professionals working in industry interested in Data Mining are invited to participate. <b>Information:</b> Professor Rosaria Lombardo <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rosaria.lombardo@unina2.it">rosaria.lombardo@unina2.it</a>
Oct 18-21	Fourth International Meeting on Statistical Implicative Analysis (ASI 4), University of Castellón, Spain. The meeting is structured in 1-day tutorial talks and 2-day theoretical and applied communications. Topics include ASI statistical models, duality variable-individual spaces, application on didactics, psychology, sociology, economy, biology, etc. <b>Information:</b> Régis Gras, LINA, Université de Nantes (France) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rencontreASI4@polytech.univ-nantes.fr">rencontreASI4@polytech.univ-nantes.fr</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.asi4.uji.es">www.asi4.uji.es</a>