International Society for Clinical Biostatistics News

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Editorial

There are only a few weeks to go until our next conference, ISCB28 in Alexandroupolis in Greece. In this News, you'll find the full draft programme.

A special article appears in this issue written by our new Vice-President and former Treasurer, Norbert Victor, who looks back over his four years in charge of the Society's "piggy bank".

Thanks to the contributors to this News: Harbajan Chadha-Boreham, Norbert Victor, Emmanuel Lesaffre, Harry Southworth and the book reviewers, the Romanian NG representative, Cornelia Enachescu, SC chairs Rumana Omar, Julia Singer and KyungMann Kim, ISCB28 SPC and LOC chairs, Mike Kenward and Giota Touloumi. And finally, to Rita Schou for making sure the Swiss Word doc gets printed nicely in Denmark.

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Index

ISCB Membership

If you joined ISCB by attending the Geneva conference, but haven't renewed your membership for 2007, please note this will be the last News you receive. Please renew your subscription!

		end 89	end 92	Dec 93	Dec 94	Dec 95	Dec 96	Dec 97	Dec 98	Dec 99	Nov 00	Nov 01	Dec 02	Nov 03	Nov 04	Nov 05	*May 06*	Nov 06	May 07
*=host of	conference																		
	Total	261	596	715	698	725	702	685	729	818	797	837	825	756	758	620	*433*	808	448
	# Countries	23	32	32	31	33	34	37	37	41	40	45	41	40	38	39	*35*	40	33
1.	Poland [NatGrp]		11	11	24	24	30	21	19	26	34	37	41	41	43	40	*42*	49	53
2.	UK	50	90	176*	120	144	121	128	169*	135	151	153	141	190*	140	109	*62*	133	51
3.	Hungary [NatGrp]	1	21	17	18	19	25*	27	29	29	33	34	41	48	42	38*	*50*	50	43
4.	USA	18	45	40	39	41	40	79*	66	76	77	89	78	75	57	51	*33*	67	39
5.	Czech. Rep. [NatGrp]			1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	*17*	17	36
6.	Germany	30	67	75	84	71	78	72	70	186*	90	87	77	61	57	51	*34*	73	30
7.	Romania [NatGrp]						2			4	1	1	1	19	21	30	*28*	28	30
8.	Denmark	4	58*	38	31	30	32	26	35	38	39	36	46	41	37	37	*26*	40	25
9.	Switzerland	14	25	22	80*	33	29	24	25	23	18	23	26	22	23	23	*16**	55*	19
10.	Netherlands	14*	30	38	33	36	29	31	39	35	33	38	39	33	87*	35	*16*	44	17
11.	France	30	52	62	50	73	67	52	52	49	53	37	93*	31	41	30	*13*	57	12
12.	Sweden	23	51	53	54	58	64	51	45	38	44	88*	50	36	34	24	*15*	23	12
13.	Belgium	13	22	27	30	30	32	35	29	25	33	36	33	23	27	24	*15*	23	12
14.	Austria	4	9	11	13	11	16	13	11	15	18	15	13	16	17	15	*4*	14	9
15.	Canada	6	12	14	14	11	13	15	14	9	9	10	14	16	8	12	*6*	12	9
16.	Japan	2	6	7	5	7	4	10	13	20	12	11	10	10	10	17	*6*	17	8
17.	Norway	13	18	25	22	12	18	10	10	11	10	16	16	12	14	12	*7*	13	8
18.	Italy	16	33	37	32	32	33	26	33	26	63*	29	25	15	25	15	*9*	23	6
19.	Australia	6	9	11	6	9	8	11	9	10	12	8	9	14	8	6	*6*	11	6
20.	Finland	2	7	7	9	9	9	7	5	10	9	18	11	7	11	10	*3*	6	4
21.	Slovenia		1	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	3	*3*	4	3
22.	Spain	10	12	18	12	46*	23	14	16	12	11	11	8	7	15	5	*3*	9	2
23.	Greece		1	1	1				1	1	3	1	6	1	2	2	*2*	3	2*
24.	India		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	*2*	2	2
25.	Slovakia												1			1	*2*	2	2
26.	Singapore							3	6	4	5	8	5	7	2	4	*1*	6	1
27.	Israel	1	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	10	13	10	7	8	3	*2*	4	1
28.	South Africa		1	4	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	*2*	3	1
29.	Iran						1	1					1	1	4	1	*1*	3	1
30.	Malaysia					2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	*2*	2	1
31.	New Zealand		1		1		2	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	1	2	*1*	2	1
32.	Russia					1	3	3	3	2	2	1	4	3	2	1	*1*	1	1
33.	Luxembourg																		1
34.	Turkey		1	1						1				1	2	2	*1*	3	
35.	Thailand		1	1		1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2					3	
36.	Mexico						1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	*1*	1	
37.	Portugal	1	3	5	2	2	2	2	5	5	3	4	3	3	1	1	*1*	1	
38.	Estonia											2		1		1		1	
39.	Saudi Arabia											1						1	
40.	Indonesia						1											1	
41.	Sri Lanka																	1	
42.	Cuba								2	2	2	2	2		2	1			
43.	Taiwan										1	1	1	1	1	1			
44.	United Arab Emirates															1			
45.	Malawi												1	1	1				
46.	Ireland	1	2	3	4	3	4	4	2	3	2	3		1	1				
47.	South Korea					3		1						1					
48.	Colombia							1	1		1			1					
49.	China		1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2						
50.	Croatia									1	1		1						
51.	Gambia												1						
52.	Lithuania											2							
53.	Argentina											1							
54.	Brazil					2						1							
55.	Kuwait	1										1							
56.	Sudan											1							
57.	Ukraine									1		1							
58.	Egypt											1							
59.	Pakistan								1	1	1								
60.	Philippines									1									
61.	Zimbabwe				1														
62.	Kenya		1	1															
63.	Oman	1																	

ISCB President's Mid-Year Update

From Emmanuel Lesaffre

Dear Friends,

By now you probably have all registered for the Alexandroupolis meeting, if not… no problem you still have time to do it, but do it quickly! I hope for you that you will not miss this meeting which promises to become most exciting both from a scientific as well as from a social point of view.

I can assure you that the organisers are doing their utmost best to make this conference again a highlight in your professional life. And don't forget … when the meeting is over (but only then!) you can lie on the beach and enjoy the sun. Don't hesitate to convince your colleagues to join you and enjoy together with us the 28th ISCB meeting.

In the mean time the organisers for next year's meeting in Copenhagen have been very active too and are pretty far advanced with the practical aspects of their meeting. More on this you will find out at the meeting, as well as information about future meetings. We are still looking for hosts for the 2010 meeting. So, if you have any ideas about possible future organisers and locations, don't hesitate to let us know and get in touch with us in Greece.

Looking forward to meeting you all in Alexandroupolis.

ISCB Education SC: Course

From Rumana Omar

The following course under the ISCB umbrella for target countries took place recently in Budapest, Hungary from 22-23 May:

Meta-analysis, Course tutor: Stephen Senn

Participants came from Hungary, Romania and Kuwait.

National Group Report: Romania

From Cornelia Enachescu

The Romanian National Group of ISCB now consists of 30 members, from Bucharest, Sibiu, Timisoara, Cluj and Iasi.

In April 2007, the scientific meeting of our group took place in Bucharest in parallel with the session of SPSR Conference. At this meeting, 12 members of our group presented communications about detection of outlying observations in designs of bioavailability studies, optimal sample size in clinical trials, outliers between mathematical and biological variability, etc.

The Romanian National Group is very active with bimonthly meetings on Thursdays at 1700. These meetings are organised in collaboration with universities, research institutes, pharmaceutical companies and researchers working abroad. The meetings serve as forum to expose new ideas and techniques regarding: the cause of some diseases (e.g. cardio-vascular, viral, degenerative diseases, etc.), simulation algorithms for some physiological / pathological processes, models for metabolically, pharmacodynamic processes, etc. The interventions of the Romanian researchers working abroad are done by teleconference.

The majority of the researchers participating at these meetings are involved in research grants on the above subjects.

We are working now on a web page of the Romanian Group. A General Meeting of the Romanian Group of ISCB is planned in November 2007, including elections.

Beyond this, we intend to be one of the co-organisers of the National Conference MEDINF'2007, Sibiu, November 2007.

Two Terms of Office + The Last Report of the Outgoing Treasurer: ISCB Finances 2003-6

From Norbert Victor

I handed over the ISCB treasurership to Koos Zwinderman on 1 Jan 2007, and at the end of my office, I will give a short review of my experiences as treasurer together with some resulting recommendations for the future.
Because of the early availability of the financial report of the Geneva congress and the precise settlement of the congress accounts, I was able to finalise the ISCB financial report for 2006 (see Annex 1) in February 2007. The financial report has been audited and was fully approved by Ernst & Young, Statsautoriseret Revisionsaktieselskab, Copenhagen.
The finances and accounts of the Geneva congress were audited and approved by our member, Helen Saunders, as internal reviewer, according to §10.07 of our Constitution. Both reports were then approved by the Officers, too, and can be discussed at the AGM (and hopefully be approved). This is the first time during my treasurership that I am able to present the financial report so early that each member of ISCB is able to check the figures before the AGM takes place.
The finalisation of the Geneva accounts (see **Annex 2**) was made possible by the hard work and the effectiveness of the congress team under the auspices of David Warne. My special thanks go to him and his crew, who made this congress such a fine success in every respect – scientifically and financially. The total surplus of €30,367 was transferred to the ISCB accounts and averts financial difficulties from our society.

Treasurer's Report for 2006:

1. The ISCB financial report for 2006 is given in **Annex 1**; it will be discussed at the ExCom and at the AGM in Alexandroupolis.
2. Financial Situation: At the end of 2006, the society's capital stood at €92,981, compared with €74,982 at the end of 2005. With this increase of about €18,000 – mostly due to the big surplus of the Geneva conference – the loss of the year 2005 was not only compensated, but there is also a small increase compared to the society's capital at the end of 2004. Hence, the society is back on its way to stable finances with small increases of equity every year. With the surplus of the Geneva conference being greater than expected, we have been able to overcome the difficult financial situation. We can now ignore the warning stated in my 2005 report. I now can give an unequivocal all-clear!
3. Regarding the Income positions, it should be noted that besides the surplus of the Geneva conference, the position "Membership Fees" has considerably increased compared with 2005 and is even higher than the figure of 2004. A considerable part of these fees has been collected with the registration fees in Geneva, and shows the strong dependency of the society's income from the participation in our yearly congresses.
4. The expenditure positions "President's Invited Speaker" and "Workshops", which we did not have in 2005, are reasonable and below the yearly budget. These are important activities of the society and we ought to view these expenses as positive.
5. The expenditure positions "Officers & ExCom" and "Awards" are higher than in 2005, but smaller than in 2004 and below the yearly budget. The low amounts in 2005 resulted from the special handling of the Szeged accounts. Some expenses for awards and Officers were included in the position "Deficit of cash flow in connexion with the conference 2005".
6. The positions "Permanent Office", "Newsletter" and "Other Items" have the same size as in the years before.
7. Given this promising development, it must, nevertheless, be stated that the income from membership is not enough to balance the current expenditure of the Society. As mentioned last year, we need some surplus of our congresses to break even with our finances. Beyond, we need some increase of our equity every year until we have arrived at €150,000. This is regarded as a solid base for a society with a yearly turnover (including the congress) of about this amount. Therefore, I recommend to keep the membership fee unchanged, but also to maintain the economy measures decided in 2002, until we have reached our above-mentioned aim.

A Retrospective on My Time as Treasurer, and a Farewell

My two terms of office lasted from 1 Jan 2003 to 31 Dec 2006. On the occasion of my retirement, I want to take the opportunity to review the financial development of the society and to give some recommendations resulting from my experiences as treasurer.
Figure 1 exhibits the progress of ISCB's finances. ISCB was a very healthy society financially until the end of the last century. This situation changed dramatically in 2001 resulting from a huge deficit of the yearly congress. Since then, the capital of ISCB has been much below the sum building a solid basis for a scientific society with a high turnover. It is a common rule that societies, whose main activity is to hold a yearly congress, ought to have a financial basis at least equal to the size of the financial volume of the congress. This ensures that an unforeseen cancellation or a deficit by the congress will not cause the danger of bankruptcy. In 2002, we agreed on several economic measures and provided clear rules for congress budgets and finances, and set up the above-mentioned aim: a capital of about €150,000. If we look to the general trend from 2001 until 2006, it becomes evident that we are on a good way to return to a healthy financial status. Achieving this aim, however, will still take several further years of effort. It is especially promising that the setback in 2005 could be compensated that quickly.
Figure 2 shows the development of our membership: The mid-year figures indicate the "core" membership, the increases in the "end-of the-year-figures" are mainly due to our policy that congress participants become members automatically. Hence, about 60% of our members are "regular" members, and the other 40% are fluctuating and not strongly tied to ISCB. This fact corroborates the dependency of the society's finances from the result of its yearly congresses. Congresses with low participation have higher risks of a deficit and also lead to a lower income from membership fees.

My recommendations at the end of my two terms as treasurer are:

1. Accept only congresses with budgets providing a surplus of about €10,000.

A surplus about this size is necessary to break even the yearly balance because the regular income is not sufficient to cover our regular expenses. This is also roughly the amount of costs connected with activities related to the congress, namely "Awards", "President's Invited Speaker" and (re-imbursements for) "Officers and ExCom".

2. Use the budget as a control instrument of the congress accounts.

This should be done in close cooperation with the congress treasurer and the society's treasurer, e.g. by rules like this: If an expense position in the congress accounts is in danger of exceeding the corresponding budget position by more than 10%, the society's treasurer has to be informed and to be asked for permission.

3. The economic measures decided by the ExCom in 2002 ought to be maintained until the aim of a capital of €150,000 is reached.

4. Try to increase the percentage of members who are strongly tied to the society.

For this, ISCB should think about advantages to be offered to the members besides the yearly congress. As such advantages probably cannot be paid by the regular income, a moderate increase of membership fees is then advisable. Our membership fees are very low at the moment, and most members will be ready to pay a slightly higher fee, if they see a corresponding value.

5. Strive for a transformation of "National Group Membership" into "regular" membership.

This should be considered when a rough equivalence between the national European economies has been reached.

To conclude: I took over the treasurership at a time where the society had real financial problems and dangers. By various economy measures and the hard work of the congress organisers, who tried to make the congresses not only a scientific but also a financial success, we are back on the road to solidity. If ISCB finances follow the tendency shown by the dashed line in Figure 1, we will get financially well in a few years. Therefore, I am handing over my office confidently to Koos. I am convinced that the financial future of ISCB is in good hands. It will be a great pleasure for me – as Vice-President – to continue the cooperation with Koos and the other officers for a successful development of our society.

Figure 1: ISCB Equity

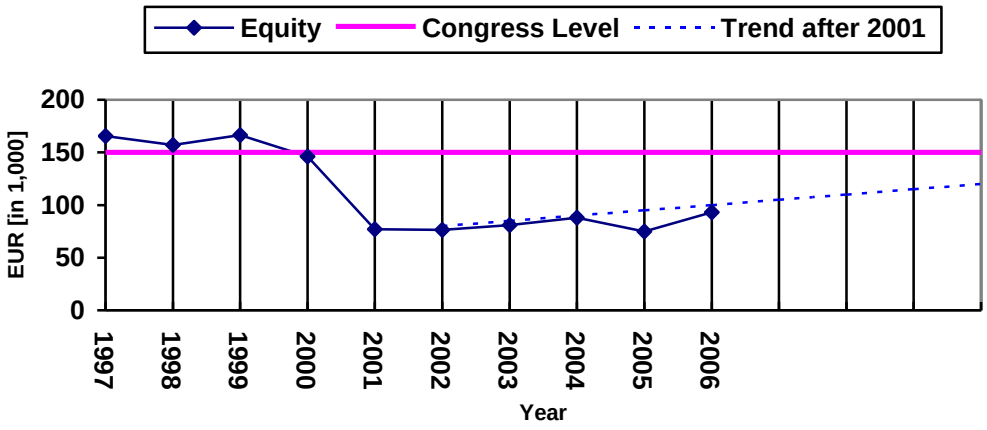
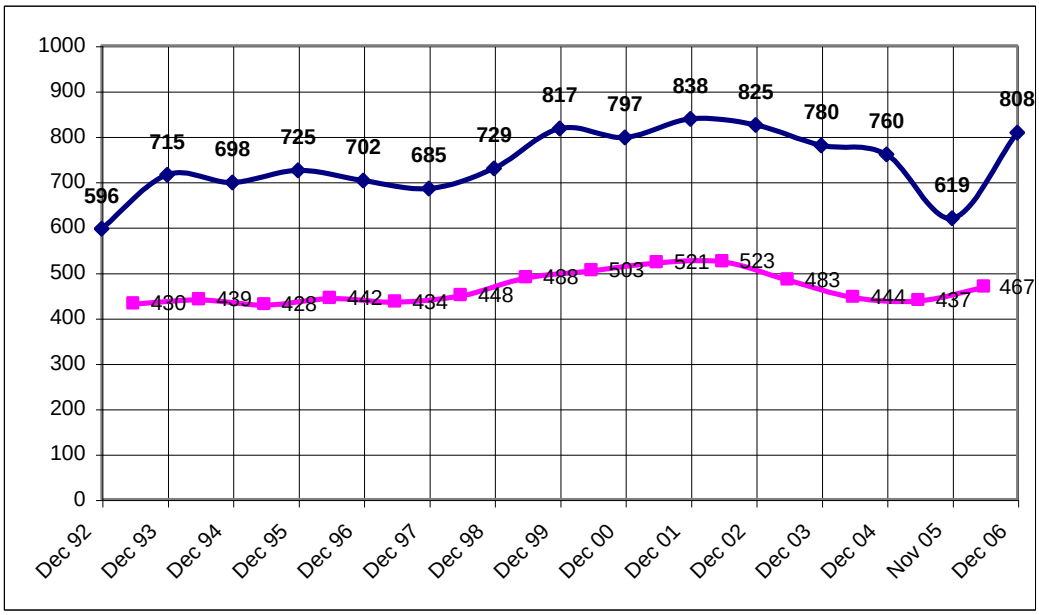


Figure 2: ISCB Membership Diagram



ISCB Finances 2003-6 (continued)

Annex 1: Financial Report as of December 2006

EURO	2006	2005
Income		
Membership fees	23,573.00	15,040.00
Membership fees collected in Szeged		3,008.00
Conference surplus, Geneva 2006	30,367.00	
Deficit of cash flow in connection with the conference 2005		-6,347.51
Advertising	2,300.00	3,000.00
Earned interest	1,333.32	1,426.27
Currency gains	10.85	46.69
Total income	57,584.17	16,173.45
Expenditure		
Permanent Office:		
Consumables	56.23	
Postage & freight	148.64	91.48
Telecommunication & internet	1,526.17	1,385.43
Printing & photocopying	77.10	87.18
Administration	11,183.92	11,209.18
	12,992.06	12,773.27
Officers & ExCom:		
Conference fees	3,145.00	
Accommodation	2,828.01	1,538.00
Travel expenses	746.10	1,729.26
Other expenses	61.46	260.00
	6,780.57	3,527.26
Awards (Students, Scientists):		
Conference fees	4,057.00	
Accommodation	2,584.00	2,276.00
Travel expenses	786.21	1,908.15
Other expenses	237.76	200.00
	7,664.97	4,384.15
President's Invited Speaker		
Conference fees	314.00	
Accommodation	189.00	
Travel expenses	347.28	
	850.28	0.00
Workshops / Courses:		
Honorarium	1,225.00	
Accommodation	392.34	
Travel expenses	328.01	
	1,945.35	0.00
Newsletter:		
Office expenses	6,311.36	5,750.91
Editorial expenses		
Travel expenses		
	6,311.36	5,750.91
Other items:		
Bank charges	1,205.33	1,238.98
Audit	1,680.00	1,680.00
Currency loss	155.60	24.67
Loss for unrealisable assets		11.00
	3,040.93	2,954.65
Total expenditure	39,585.52	29,390.24
NET INCOME:	17,998.65	-13,216.79
Assets		
Bank accounts:		
Barclays Euro account	19,947.98	30,095.39
Nordea DKK account	8,144.77	6,747.51
Nordea Euro account	28,285.53	1,282.58
Bonds, Danish Shipbuilding Fund 2007	44,226.62	44,226.62
	100,604.90	82,352.11
Others:		
Accounts receivable	1,075.40	
	1,075.40	11,008.00
Total Assets	101,680.30	93,360.11
Liabilities		
Owing to Permanent Office	6,659.01	5,795.96
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	360.00	280.00
Total Liabilities	8,699.01	18,377.47
Assets less Liabilities	92,981.29	74,982.64

EQUITY brought forward	74,982.64	88,199.43
Loss by 30 December 2005		-13,216.79
Profit by 31 December 2006	17,998.65	
EQUITY carried forward	92,981.29	74,982.64

Conversion rates: 31-12-2005: DKK/EUR 746.05, GBP/EUR 1.4735 31-12-2006: DKK/EUR 745.60, GBP/EUR 1,4978

ISCB Finances 2003-6 (continued)

ISCB members by country		
31-12-2006		**Remarks**
AUSTRALIA	11	
AUSTRIA	14	
BELGIUM	23	One Czech Republic National Group member*
CANADA	12	
CZECH REPUBLIC	17	Czech Republic National Group members
DENMARK	40	
ESTONIA	1	
FINLAND	6	
FRANCE	57	
GERMANY	73	
GREECE	3	
HUNGARY	50	Hungarian National group members
INDIA	2	
IRAN	3	
ISRAEL	4	
ITALY	23	
JAPAN	17	
MALAYSIA	2	
MEXICO	1	
NETHERLANDS	44	
NEW ZEALAND	2	
NORWAY	13	
POLAND	49	Polish National Group members
PORTUGAL	1	
ROMANIA	28	Romanian National Group members
RUSSIA	1	
SAUDIA ARABIA	1	
SINGAPORE	6	
SLOVAKIA	2	Czech Republic National Group members
SLOVENIA	4	
SOUTH AFRICA	3	
SPAIN	9	
SRI LANKA	1	
SWEDEN	23	
SWITZERLAND	55	One Czech Republic National Group member*
THAILAND	3	
TURKEY	3	
UNITED KINGDOM	133	One Czech Republic National Group member*
USA	67	
ZIMBABWE	1	
Total	**808**	
Ordinary members	550	22,000 Euros
Student members	63	1,260 Euros
National Group members, non-paying	149	0
Newsletter members	4	0
David Warne + Diego Kuonen	2	0
Non-paying at Geneva conference, incl. 2 students	40	
Currency gain re Membership fees, Geneva		313
Total	**808**	**23,573 Euros**

*) Regarded as a non-paying member in 2006.

Notes:

Earned interest:	
Nordea bank accounts	18.39
Bonds	1,314.93
Total	1,333.32

Telecom and internet:	
Officers' teleconferences	1,075.28
Web terminal	400.12
Domain and webhotel	50.77
Total	1,526.17

Bank charges:	
Credit card transactions	724.12
Foreign cheques received	30.51
Bank transfers received	37.70
Barclays commission charges	120.98
Bank transfers from ISCB office	280.29
Bonds	11.73
Total	1,205.33

Currency loss:	
One membership fee (also gained 1 Euro)	1.20
Reimbursement to Cyncron	90.48
Geneva money	63.92
Total	155.60

Annex 2: Financial Report 27th ISCB Conference, Geneva

Congress Accounts	**€**
Income:	**Totals**
• Registration fees	109,843
• Pre-Conference Courses	19,104
• Sponsoring	16,855
• Fees for Social Events	15,472
	161,274
Expenses:	
• Congress organization, incl. rooms	20,228
• PCO Services, Printing, LOC and SPC	36,648
• Pre-Conference Courses	5,896
• Invited Speakers	4,669
• Catering	30,166
• VAT, Credit Cards	4,230
• Expenses for Social Events	29,070
	130,907

1.1 Congress Balance

Income	161,274
Expenses	130,907
Congress Surplus	**30,367**

Book Review by Kim Hawkins (UK)

Vance W. Berger	Selection Bias and Covariate Imbalances in Randomized Clinical Trials	Wiley (2005) 0-470-86362-5

The book is divided into two sections; Part I: Is there a problem with reliability in medical studies? and Part II: Actions to be taken to improve the reliability of medical studies. The book addresses the fact that although randomised controlled trials are seen as towards the top in the hierarchy of good quality evidence it is possible that within this category of trials the quality of evidence can vary. In particular the results of trials may be compromised by selection bias (systematic baseline imbalances), which is the main focus of this book.

The first chapter introduces the concept of randomisation and selection bias and the second chapter goes on to describe the different ways trials may be susceptible to selection bias. It describes predictive allocation sequences and therefore possible pre-selection of patients, re-entry of patients into a trial at a different centre, limited drug supplies at centres and mistakes made in randomising patients. The type of selection bias focused on is subsequently that caused by the investigator rather than the sponsor or patient, such as vague protocol exclusion criteria allowing clinician discretion on entry of a patient to a trial, advanced knowledge of the allocation sequence or prediction of the sequence.

Chapter 3 follows on by describing how one might find evidence that selection bias exists in a trial, acknowledging that there is often a lack of evidence to prove this. A number of examples of real trials are used to show possible selection bias in practice. Chapter 4 rounds up Part I by looking at the impact of selection bias in randomised trials, discussing that covariate imbalance resulting from selection bias may not be a problem if the covariate is not strongly related to outcome.

Part II starts with Chapter 5 where methods of preventing selection bias are considered. Some are unrealistic in practice but the detailed discussion of reducing the predictability of randomisations is useful. Chapter 6 looks at detecting selection bias and considers simple methods such as the imbalance in baseline covariates or using screening logs through to more complex and less well-known methods such as using 'the selection covariate', reverse propensity scores and the Berger-Exner test and the Ivanova-Barrier-Berger (IBB) detection method.

Chapters 7 and 8 represent a fairly small part of the book and address how to adjust for selection bias and manage it if it is found or suspected. This seems a little disproportionate as these chapters are likely to be the most useful in practice.

Overall this book was an interesting read with some thought-provoking arguments. However, there is a tendency to use some unrealistic scenarios throughout the book which, although often acknowledged as unrealistic by the author, I found detracted from the practical application of the methods in the book. For example, one section describes selecting investigators to take part in trials based on previous track record of selection bias. When and where would these data ever be collated and made available to trialists?

On the topic of relevance of the methods in this book to statisticians, I wonder whether it is realistic to expect pharmaceutical companies and sponsors to take up testing for selection bias in their trials? I expect the techniques will only be useful when selection bias is strongly suspected, e.g. through feedback from those randomising that the allocation sequence was obvious or large observed differences in baseline characteristics, rather than these methods becoming routine tests carried out in clinical trials.

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. G. A. Young and R. L. Smith	Essentials of Statistical Inference	Cambridge (2005) 780521839716	
3. D. C. Hoaglin, F. Mosteller and J. W. Tukey	Exploring Data Tables, Trends, and Shapes	Wiley (2006, 1985) 0-470-04005-x	
4. 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	
5. Rasmus Nielsen (Editor)	Statistical Methods in Molecular Evolution	Springer (2005) 0-387-22333-9	
6. A. C. Davison	Statistical Models	Cambridge (2003) 780521773393	
7. David A. Freedman	Statistical Models, Theory and Practice	Cambridge (2005) 780521671057	
8. Michael A. Proschan, Gordon K. K. Lan and Janet Turk Wittes	Statistical Monitoring of Clinical Trials	Springer (2006) 978-0-387-30059-7	
9. Brian D. Ripley	Stochastic Simulation	Wiley, 1987 (2006) 0-470-00960-8	
10. Forrest W. Young, Pedro M. Valero-Mora and Michael Friendly	Visual Statistics	Wiley (2006) 0-471-68160-1	
11. Janet Peacock and Sally Kerry	Presenting Medical Statistics from Proposal to Publication	Oxford (2006) 0-19-859966-8	
12. Jayanta K. Ghosh, Mohan Delampady and Tapas Samanta	An Introduction to Bayesian Analysis: Theory and Methods	Springer (2006) 978-0-387-40084-6	
13. Antony Unwin, Martin Theus and Heike Hofmann	Graphics of Large Datasets	Springer (2006) 978-0-387-32906-2	
14. Jean-Michel Marin and Christian P. Robert	Bayesian Choice: A Practical Approach to Computational Bayesian Statistics	Springer (2007) 978-0-387-38979-0	
15. Andreas Ziegler and Inke R. Konig	A Statistical Approach to Genetic Epidemiology	Wiley (2006) 3-527-31252-8	

Books reviews in this issue:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. Vance W. Berger	Selection Bias and Covariate Imbalances in Randomized Clinical Trials	Wiley (2005) 0-470-86362-5	Kim Hawkins, UK
2. Mark Woodward	Epidemiology: Study Design and Data Analysis (Second Edition)	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2005) 1-58488-415-0	Anneke Grobler, South Africa
3. Stephen D. Simon	Statistical Evidence in Medical Trials	Oxford (2006) 0-190856760-X	Rainer Muche, Germany
4. Phillip Good	Permutation, Parametric, and Bootstrap Tests of Hypotheses (Third Edition)	Springer (2005) 0-387-20279-X	Gaj Vidmar, Slovenia
5. Stephen Senn	Dicing with Death	Cambridge (2003) 0-521-54023-2	Anneke Grobler, South Africa
6. 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

Books for Review (continued)

Books recently sent for review:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. Naomi B. Robbins	Creating More Effective Graphs	Wiley (2005) 0-471-27402-X	Gaj Vidmar, Slovenia
2. Daniel Zelterman	Models for Discrete Data (Revised Edition)	Oxford (2006) 9-780198-567011	Patrick Musonda, UK
3. Lemuel A. Moye	Multiple Analyses in Clinical Trials	Springer (2006) 0-387027781-1.	Oke Gerke, Denmark
4. Feifang Hu and William F. Rosenberger	The Theory of Response-Adaptive Randomization in Clinical Trials	Wiley (2006) 0-471-65396-9	Andreas Ziegler, Germany
5. R. A. Maronna, R. D. Martin and V. J. Yohai	Robust Statistics: Theory and Methods	Wiley (2006) 0-470-01092-4	S. N. Dwivedi, India
7. David L. DeMets, Curt D. Furberg and Lawrence M. Friedman (Editors)	Data Monitoring in Clinical Trials	Springer (2006) 9-780387-203300	Barbara Hawkins, USA
8. Julian J. Faraway	Linear Models with R	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2005) 1-58488-425-8	Guido Knapp, Germany
9. Tomasz Burzykowski, Geert Molenberghs and Marc Buyse (Editors)	The Evaluation of Surrogate Endpoints	Springer (2005) 0-387-20277-3	Tim Friede, Switzerland
10. H. Brown and R. Prescott	Applied Mixed Models in Medicine (Second Edition)	Wiley (2006) 0-470-02356-2	Marie Reilly, Sweden
11. 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	Lars Krogsgaard Thomsen
12. Rasmus Nielsen (Ed.)	Statistical Methods in Molecular Evolution	Springer (2005)0-387-22333-9	Hamid Pezeshk, Iran
13. Robert Gentleman, Vincent J. Carey, Wolfgang Huber, Rafael A. Irizarry and Sandrine Dudoit (Eds.)	Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions Using R and Bioconductor	Springer (2005) 0-387-25146-4	Victor Moreno, Spain
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. Jean Dickinson Gibbons and Subhabrata Chakraborti	Nonparametric Statistical Inference (Fourth Edition)	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2003) 0-8247-4052-1	Elisabeth Svensson, Sweden
5. 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
6. Murray Aitkin, Brian Francis and John Hinde	Statistical Modelling in GLIM 4	Oxford (2005) 0-19-852413-7	Herwig Friedl, Austria
7. John Verzani	Using R for Introductory Statistics	Chapman & Hall/CRC (2005) 1-58488-450-9	Justin Clayton, USA
8. Shein-Chung Chow, Jun Shao and Hansheng Wang	Sample Size Calculations in Clinical Research	CRC (2003) 0-8247-0970-5	Jorgen Seldrup, France
9. 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:

Arnold	http://www.arnoldpublishers.com/
Blackwell	http://www.medirect.com/
Cambridge University Press	http://www.cambridge.org/uk/browse/default.asp?subjectid=1007745
Chapman & Hall, CRC	http://www.crcpress.com/shopping_cart/categories/categories_products.asp?parent_id=104
Marcel Dekker (Taylor and Francis)	http://www.dekker.com/sdek/browse~thing=content~by=treesubject~stem=0~append=713326283~selected=713326283
Oxford University Press	http://www.oup.co.uk/academic/science/maths/
Springer	http://www.springer.com/chl/home/statistics?SGWID=2-10128-0-0-0
John Wiley & Sons	http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-300665.html

Important note to potential reviewers:
We regularly receive books from publishers for review in the Newsletter. We are most grateful for these "donations", the reviews of which we regard as a service to you, our members. **Regretfully, some individuals, despite repeated reminders, neither return a review, nor the book to ISCB... When requesting a book, please remember that you're making a commitment to the Society to do a little work in return for keeping the book.**
Please do a little work in return for keeping the book and your name will be published in the News!
For the format and length, please see recent issues of ISCB News. You can send the review in a variety of formats but plain text email, html, RTF or Word are preferred. The reviews may be edited for clarity (English grammar and spelling, punctuation etc.).

Book Review by Anneke Grobler (South Africa)

Mark Woodward Epidemiology: Study Design and Data Analysis (Second Edition) Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2005) 1-58488-415-0

The audience for this book is researchers wishing to understand the statistical techniques used in epidemiological research and statisticians wishing to apply statistical knowledge to the epidemiological field.

Chapter 1: Fundamental issues

The first chapter provides a clear, concise summary of the major definitions in epidemiology; like: epidemiology, determinants of disease, risk factors, measurement of disease, incidence and prevalence, causality, ecological data. Different study designs are introduced. The examples used are described clearly, but these are the classical epidemiological examples, so someone familiar with epidemiology might find the chapter repetitive.

Chapter 2: Basic analytical procedures

This chapter describes different types of data and gives useful tips on creating tables and graphs; this is illustrated using examples. Different statistical methods are discussed in a clear way; such as contingency tables (chi-square test), proportions for binary variables and comparing two proportions. For quantitative variables a detailed description of numerical summaries and pictorial shape investigations is given. Inferences for a single mean and comparison of two means, for paired and unpaired data is discussed. Data transformations and non-parametric tests, measurement of agreement and assessment of diagnostic tests are covered. This chapter is introductory and does not provide much value to statisticians, but is very accessible for the non-statistician.

Chapter 3: Assessing risk factors

Risk factors are defined and relative risk (risk ratio), odds ratio, attributable risk and risk differences are discussed. The discussion also focuses on the most appropriate measure in different situations. Significance testing for odds and risk ratios and a test for linear trend are also discussed.

Chapter 4: Confounding and interaction

In this detailed chapter standardisation is considered as a way of dealing with confounding. The Mantel-Haenszel estimate for the odds ratio and relative risk and the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test are described. Tests for interaction using relative risks, odds ratios and risk difference are given. How to deal with the interaction detected is also described.

Chapter 5: Cohort studies

The design of cohort studies as well as the advantages and disadvantages are discussed, while more economic alternative designs are mentioned. The effect of withdrawals is described. Survival analysis using life tables and Kaplan-Meier estimates is explained. The person years method of analysing cohort studies is also illustrated, as well as the use of standardized event ratios. Finally a short discussion of period cohort effect is provided.

Chapter 6: Case-control studies

The advantages and disadvantages of case-control studies and basic methods of analysis are discussed. There is a focus on design aspects, such as inclusion and exclusion criteria and the choice of controls. Matching and the analysis of matched data are discussed in detail, including one to one and one to many matching. Nested case control, case-cohort and case-crossover studies are discussed.

Chapter 7: Intervention studies

This book is not directed at the study of clinical trials, but this chapter covers the basic issues related to clinical trials such as advantages, disadvantages, ethical considerations, use of a control group, blinding and randomization. Cluster randomized trials and sequential studies are mentioned. The calculation of number needed to treat is described and a detailed discussion of cross-over studies is also supplied.

Chapter 8: Sample size determination

In addition to giving a short overview on sample size calculation and issues such as power, the book gives sample size calculations for only the most basic problems, namely testing means and proportions. Minimum detectable difference is also mentioned. A section is dedicated to calculating the sample size for case-control studies and matched studies.

Chapter 9: Modelling quantitative outcome variables

This chapter describes the basics of one-way ANOVA, simple linear regression, correlation, nonlinear regression, two-way ANOVAs and analyses with repeated data. Model building and model testing are also covered.

Chapter 10: Modelling binary outcome data

This chapter focuses on logistic regression and the interpretation of analyses with various ordinal levels. Discussion also includes multiple logistic regression models and floating absolute risks. Tests for goodness of fit and various ways of checking the model are discussed as well as the use of dummy variables. More complex issues such as interaction, matched case control studies and longitudinal analyses are touched upon.

Chapter 11: Modelling follow-up data

This chapter discusses survival analyses, with a focus on proportional hazards regression models. Different distributions for the survival times are discussed as well of ways to check the model and to check whether the proportional hazards assumption holds. Poisson regression (including multiple regression) is also covered with an interesting section on pooled logistic regression.

Chapter 12: Meta-analysis

This chapter provides a good introduction to meta-analysis. It describes both the need for a systematic review and discussion of differences between studies and pooled estimates. Methods for creating pooled estimates, such as fixed effects or random effects modelling and different ways of weighting studies are discussed. Ways of quantifying and identifying heterogeneity are given, including forest plots and influence plots. Including study quality in these analyses is described.

In summary, if I were to teach an introductory course in epidemiology, I would most certainly consider using this book as a textbook. This book is clear and easy to follow without treating the topics too simplistically and covers the spectrum of analytical tools used in epidemiology. It has also come in handy as a quick reference in my office. The book is clear and provides many examples and exercises. SAS programs and output are shown and interpreted and the website gives STATA programs. This book focuses on basic concepts, although more complicated topics are mentioned and the reader is referred to leading textbooks on these topics.

ISCB28 Alexandroupolis 2007: Update

From Mike Kenward, SPC Chair, and Giota Touloumi, LOC Chair, May 2007

In this issue of ISCB News, we present details of the ISCB28 scientific programme. ISCB28 has attracted a great interest from biostatisticians from all over the world and this has been reflected in a large number of high quality abstract submissions.
In total, we received 242 submissions from 39 countries. Apart from the usual participation from European countries such as the UK, France, Germany, Italy etc. approximately one third of the submissions have been from countries outside the European continent (Australia, Canada, Chile, Cuba, India, Iran, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, USA, United Arab Emirates).
Apart from a few rejections, a little over one half of the 242 abstract submissions were accepted as oral presentations and the remainder as posters. The five invited sessions cover a wide range of topics (Surrogate markers in clinical trials; the Influenza pandemic; Dynamic treatment regimes in clinical trials and observational studies; Mendelian randomization and Statistical bioinformatics).
The oral presentations have been grouped into 25 contributed sessions covering broadly the following topics: Survival Analysis, Clinical Trials, Prediction and Prognosis, Causal Inference, Multiple Imputation for Missing Data, Models for Discrete Data, Vaccines and Surveillance, Joint Modelling, Meta Analysis, Bioinformatics, Multistate Models, and Epidemiology.
A mini-symposium on Environmental Epidemiology will run on the last day of the conference.
For those interested in the pre-conference courses, do remember that the number of places is limited, so please register as soon as possible!

Country	Course Providers	Invited Sessions + Keynote Lecture	Mini-Symposium	Contributed Sessions	Poster Session	TOTAL
TOTAL	7	17	6	133	103	266
Australia		1		4	1	6
Austria				4	1	5
Barbados					1	1
Belgium		3		7	2	12
Canada				6	5	11
Chile					1	1
Cuba					1	1
Czech Republic					3	3
France				9	6	15
Germany	1			4	3	8
Greece	2		2	12	5	21
Hungary					1	1
India					1	1
Iran					5	5
Italy			2	8	4	14
Japan				9	8	17
Netherlands		2	1	7	8	18
New Zealand					1	1
Norway				1	1	2
Pakistan					1	1
Poland					3	3
Portugal				1	1	2
Romania				1	3	4
Singapore					3	3
Slovakia				1		1
Slovenia				1	1	2
South Korea					1	1
Spain				2	1	3
Sri Lanka					3	3
Sweden				2	1	3
Switzerland				2	3	5
Turkey					5	5
UK	2	8	1	39	16	66
USA	2	3		10	3	18
Estonia				1		1
Ireland				1		1
United Arab Emirates				1		1

ISCB28 Alexandroupolis 2007: Student Conference Awards

From KyungMann Kim

This year there were 11 Student Conference Award (SCA) applications, two students each from Australia, Belgium and United Kingdom and one student each from Greece, Spain, Sweden, United States and Turkey.

Three students were selected by the SCA subcommittee (Chair, KyungMann Kim; Members, Marc Buyse, Bruno Cesana, Jan Lanke, Marie Reilly and Vana Sypsa) based on the submitted abstract and summary of the paper. Besides the SCA subcommittee members, SPC Chair, Mike Kenward, and ISCB President, Emmanuel Lesaffre, participated in the review of the applications and the selection. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their input and to thank their contribution.

This year's Student Conference winners are given below along with their affiliation and the title of presentation:

Li-Yin Lee	University of Wisconsin-Madison	USA	Nonparametric models for multivariate panel count data
Tom Palmer	University of Leicester	UK	Meta-analysis of Mendelian randomization studies using study level information
Dimitris Rizopoulos	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	Belgium	A two-part joint model for the analysis of survival times and longitudinal binary data with excess zeros

Please join me in congratulating them. I look forward to seeing their presentation during the conference and hope to see as many of you during the contributed sessions of their presentations.

ISCB28 Alexandroupolis 2007: Conference Awards for Scientists

From Julia Singer

This year there were 9 applications from 6 countries (Cuba, India, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka and Turkey).
The awards were granted for 6 abstracts. The authors of the award-winner abstracts are (in alphabetic order):

- Denis Enachescu (Romania),
- Martha Fors (Cuba),
- Rasika Jayatillake (Sri Lanka),
- Agnieszka Rossa (Poland),
- Nazneen Shariff (India),
- Corina Vernic (Romania).

ISCB28 Alexandroupolis 2007: AGM Agenda

From Harbajan Chadha-Boreham

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wed 1 August 1200-1300 in the Thraki Palace Hotel, Alexandroupolis.

The agenda is the following:

1. President's report
2. Treasurer's report
3. Subcommittee reports and motions for continuation:
   Statistics in Regulatory Affairs,
   Education,
   National Groups,
   Communications,
   Student Conference Awards,
   Statistics in Dentistry,
   Conference Organising,
   Membership.
4. Future ISCB meetings: 2008 Copenhagen (DK), 2009, 2010.
5. Any other business

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

ISCB 28 Alexandroupolis 2007: Draft Programme

(IS: Invited Session, CS: Contributed Session)

Time	Sun 29 Jul	Mon 30 Jul		Tue 31 Jul		Wed 01 Aug		Thu 2 Aug		
08.45-09.00		OPENING								
09.00-10.30	Pre-conference courses 1-4	IS1	CS11	IS3	CS21	IS5	CS31	MINI SYMPOSIUM	CS41	CS42
10.30-11.00	Break	Break		Break		Break		Break		
11.00-12.30	Pre-conference courses 1-4	IS2	CS12	IS4	CS22	11.00-12.00 Keynote Lecture 12.00-13.00 Annual General Meeting (All Welcome to Attend)		MINI SYMPOSIUM	CS43	CS44
12.30-14.00	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch		Lunch				
14.00-15.30	Pre-conference courses 1-4	CS13 CS14 CS15 CS16		Conference excursions		CS32 CS33 CS34 CS35				
15.30-16.00	Break	Break				Break				
16.00-18.00	Pre-conference courses 1-4	CS17 CS18 CS19 CS110				CS36 CS37 CS38 CS39				
During the day		Poster session		Poster Session		Poster Session				

ISCB 28 Alexandroupolis 2007: Draft Programme

Pre-Conference Courses (Sunday 29 Jul 2007)

Course 1: Methods for life course epidemiology	**Course 2: Missing data in clinical trials - a practical guide**	**Course 3: Analysis of Epidemiological Time Series for Aggregated and Individual Data**	**Course 4: Genetic Association Studies**
Leader: **Bianca de Stavola** (LSHTM, London University, UK)	Leader: **James Carpenter** (LSHTM, London University, UK)	Leaders: **Evi Samoli** (Athens Univ. Medical School. Greece), **Alain Le Tertre** (Institute de Veille Sanitaire, France), **Sonja Greven** (GSF, Germany)	Leaders: **Victor DeGrutolla** (Harvard School of Public Health, USA), **Nan Laird** (Harvard School of Public Health, USA)
This 1-day course is aimed at applied statisticians involved in medical or social science studies spanning decades or even generations. Background: Several diseases, such as breast cancer or depression, can be affected by factors operating prior to conception, during the pre-natal period and during early life as well as later factors. Most of these risk factors are correlated because of common biological and/or social pathways, while some are intrinsically ordered overtime. The study of how such factors jointly influence later (`distal') disease outcomes is referred to as life course epidemiology. Aims: 1. develop an understanding of the statistical issues that arise from the joint analysis of temporally and causally related explanatory factors 2. review the most common epidemiological settings and the data sources for this type of study 3. show how our assumptions about the relationships between the variables of interest can be set out explicitly with the aid of causal graphs 4. compare alternative modelling approaches and explore software that implements them 5. develop an appreciation of the importance of data quality, in particular in relation to missingness and measurement/ misclassification errors 6. understand the importance of comparing results from alternative approaches and alternative sets of assumptions	This workshop will focus on the analysis of clinical trials with missing data. Session I will start with the ICH E9 guideline, and outline a principled, systematic approach to the issues raised by missing values in clinical trials. In the light of this, we will review ad-hoc methods often used, and the CPMP guideline on missing data. Session II will begin by considering continuous data. We will describe multiple imputation, and compare and contrast it with mixed models for analyses under the missing at random assumption. We will then discuss how the ideas can be generalised to discrete outcome data. Session III will describe practical approaches to sensitivity analysis, from both a selection model and pattern mixture model viewpoint. Session IV will introduce Robins' doubly robust inverse probability weighting, and outline how this relates to likelihood modelling. Throughout we will illustrate with data from real trials, and give SAS code to fit the models. Background reading: Carpenter, JR and Kenward, MG (2007). Missing data in clinical trials a practical guide. To be published online by National Co-ordinating centre for research methodology.	This one day workshop is aimed at applied statisticians involved in environmental epidemiology or epidemiological studies using time series data. During the course there will be computer practicals using air pollution time series data, so there will be a corresponding limitation on Number of registrations. Several methodological issues concerning time series analysis for aggregated data with examples from air pollution epidemiology will be presented. Aggregated time-series data on air pollution and health are generally analysed using log-linear Poisson regression models for over-dispersed counts with the daily number of health events as outcome, the level of pollution as predictor and smooth functions of weather variables and calendar time to control for time-varying confounders. Proposed methodology for appropriate confounder control will be discussed, as well as issues regarding exposure response relationships, effect modification patterns and meta analysis techniques. Differences between aggregated and individual data will be also discussed, highlighting the strengths of panel studies in confounder control and analysis of effect modification. The main advantage of individual data lies in the possibility to model individual changes over time and thus accounting for heterogeneity across individuals as well as those within individuals over time. Individual longitudinal data are often analysed using mixed effects models or generalized mixed effects models(depending on the outcome of interest), using random effects to allow for differences between individuals. An introduction to the methodology will be presented with an example from air pollution epidemiology. Methodology regarding confounder control, exposure response functions, effect modification and meta analysis will be revisited in the mixed model context.	This short course will provide an introduction to the study of genetic association and how it is used to establish relationships between genes and disease. The Human Genome Project, the Hapmap Project and related projects have made it possible to obtain hundreds of thousands of genetic markers of DNA on sufficient numbers of subjects to facilitate radically new approaches for finding genes associated with human disease. The hope is that this wealth of genetic information will allow us to go beyond the discovery of genes associated with simple Mendelian disorders to find genes underlying complex disorders such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and mental illness. In contrast to earlier methods for locating genes for specific diseases based on linkage analysis, these new approaches are based on testing associations between disease outcomes and DNA markers. The success of these new approaches will depend upon development of statistical methods which overcome the challenges of multiple comparisons and the presence of population substructure. In addition to studies of genetic association, the course will also provide an introduction to the use of human and microbial genotypes for targeting therapy to person-specific characteristics. This course will assume only a background in statistics, regression and testing for association. Topics include various study designs (case-control, cohort, family-based), population substructure, whole genome wide association scans, and adjustment for testing in the setting of correlated, high-dimensional data. Genetic concepts such as linkage disequlibrium and Mendel's laws will be introduced as necessary. For topics related to studies of association, the emphasis will be on family studies because of their robustness to the presence to population substructure. For topics related to targeting therapy, the emphasis will be on resampling-based methods and types of error control.

Mon 30 Jul: AM

0900-1030

08.45-09.00	**OPENING**		
09.00-10.30	**IS1. SURROGATE MARKERS IN CLINICAL TRIALS** Larry Freedman (USA)		**CS11. EPIDEMIOLOGY I**
09.00-09.30	Ariel Alonso (Belgium) From Prentice's approach to the meta-analytic paradigm: An overview of surrogate marker evaluation.	09.00-09.18	Frank Dunstan (UK) Multilevel modelling of contextual effects on health outcomes – should households be included in the hierarchy?
		09.18-09.36	Mounia N. Hocine (UK) Hepatitis B Vaccine and Multiple Sclerosis: Case-Control and Case Series Methods
09.30-10.00	Hans van Houwelingen (Netherlands) Assessing surrogacy by meta regression	09.36-09.54	Michael Sweeting (UK) Bayesian back-calculation using a multi-state model with application to hepatitis C virus in England
		09.54-10.12	Marie-Pierre Sylvestre (Canada) Modeling Cumulative Dose and Duration of Drug Exposure Using Splines
10.00-10.30	Marc Buyse (Belgium) Biomarkers and surrogate endpoints in clinical research - what levels of evidence do we need?	10.12-10.30	Paddy Farrington (UK) Bias in case-crossover analyses of environmental time series data

1100-1300

11.00-12.30	**IS2. INFLUENZA-ARE WE READY FOR A PANDEMIC?** Jorgen Seldrup (France)		**CS12. METHODS FOR SURVIVAL DATA**
11.00-11.30	Ben Cooper (UK) Planning for Next influenza pandemic: model-based analysis of possible control measures	11.00-11.18	Federico Ambrogi (Italy) Clinical useful measures for the study of competing risks in survival analysis
		11.18-11.36	Jan Beyersmann (Germany) Why and how time-dependent bias leads to biased estimation of effect.
11.30-12.00	Marc Fourneau (Belgium) Statistical issues with flu vaccine development	11.36-11.54	Tibor Schuster (Germany) Survival analysis considering time dependent effects of disease progression- an application on lung cancer data.
		11.54-12.12	Martina Mittlböck (Austria) Evaluation of surrogate markers when surrogate and true endpoints are survival times
12.00-12.30	Jos Nauta (Netherlands) Seroprotection versus antibody response: a closer look at the controversy	12.12-12.30	Li-Yin Lee (USA) Nonparametric Models for Multivariate Panel Count Data **Student Conference Award Winner**

Mon 30 Jul: PM

1400-1530

14.00-15.30	CS13. CLINICAL TRIALS I	CS14. MODELS FOR SURVIVAL DATA	CS15. EPIDEMIOLOGY II	CS16. PREDICTION AND PROGNOSIS
14.00-14.18	Masako Nishikawa (Japan) Statistical tests for new composite hypotheses reflecting the relative clinical importance quantitatively in randomized clinical trials	Catherine Quantin (France) Alternating conditional estimation of time-dependent and non-linear effects of continuous covariates in relative survival	Monica Leu (Sweden) The impact of truncation and missing familial links in population-based registers on familial risk estimates: bias correction	Stian Lydersen (Norway) Multinomial Logistic Regression: Model fit and predictive properties. Breast tumour type predicted from FNA
14.18-14.36	Lucinda Billingham (UK) Using Bayesian analysis in randomised Phase II clinical trials to determine the worth of proceeding to Phase III	C. Quantin (France) Empirical study of the robustness of the estimates in the flexible multivariable survival model	Bianca L De Stavola (UK) Assessing the impact of exposure measurement bias in pooled analyses of observational studies	P. De Lorenzo (Italy) Evaluation of alternative prognostic stratifications by prediction accuracy measures on individual survival
14.36-14.54	Mark Simmonds (UK) Sequential methods for random effects meta-analyses	M. Zenga (Italy) The Dagum distribution as survival model	Evridiki Batistatou (UK) Efficiency of two-phase designs to correct for measurement error	Gareth Ambler (UK) Developing Risk Models For Rare Outcomes
14.54-15.12	Matthieu Resche-Rigon (France) Phase I/II dose finding trials when toxicity is not the main issue	Aris Perperoglou (Greece) Analysis of time-dependent frailties with the Relaxed Burr Model	Loki Natarajan (USA) Measurement Error Models in Nutritional Epidemiology	Christina Bamia (Greece) Estimation of life expectancy in relation to prognostic factors in observational studies with limited follow-up: An illustration using the EPIC-Elderly NAH study.
15.12-15.30	Vana Sypsa (Greece) Mathematical modelling of viral dynamics in hepatitis B and hepatitis C clinical trials	Kris Bogaerts (Belgium) Estimation of the association for bivariate interval censored data with copulas	Nikolaos Demiris (UK) Survival Extrapolation	Janez Stare (Slovenia) A Measure of Prognostic Value of Survival Models

1600-1800

16.00-18.00	CS17. CAUSAL INFERENCE	CS18. MULTIPLE IMPUTATON FOR MISSING DATA	CS19. MODELS FOR DISCRETE DATA	CS110. STATISTICAL MODELS
16.00-16.18	Manabu Kuroki (Japan) Bounds of Average Causal Effects in Studies with Unmeasured Confounders	John Carlin (Australia) Multiple imputation inferences compared to complete case analysis: Effects of different mechanisms, patterns and rates of missingness	Ralitza Gueorguieva (USA) Dirichlet Component Regression and its Application to Psychiatric Data	A. Belot (France) A relative survival regression model for the analysis of competing risks data
16.18-16.36	W.M. van der Wal (Netherlands) Estimating the causal effect of tuberculosis on AIDS Death from Left-Truncated Data	James Carpenter (UK) Sensitivity analysis after multiple imputation under missing at random: a weighting approach	Aristidis Nikoloulopoulos (Greece) A finite normal mixture copula for modelling multivariate discrete data: an application to communicable diseases	Sonja Greven (Germany) Testing for Zero Variance Components in Linear Mixed Models
16.36-16.54	Vanessa Didelez (UK) Graphical Models and Selection Bias	Ian White (UK) Multiple imputation for missing covariates in survival analysis	Dominik Heinzmann (Switzerland) A filtered Polynomial Density Approach for Modelling Overdispersed Count Data	Mikis Stasinopoulos (UK) Application of the Generalized Additive Model for Location, Scale and Shape
16.54-17.12	M. Sugihara (Japan) Estimation of causal treatment effects using inverse probability of treatment weighted methods based on the time-dependent propensity score for survival data	Christiana Drake (USA) Nonignorable nonresponse, random subsamples of non-respondents and multiple imputation	Hideaki Uehara (Japan) Multinomial-Gamma-Poisson Mixture Models for Randomized Controlled Trials with Count Data	A. R. de Leon (Canada) A bivariate copula model for clustered mixed binary and continuous outcomes
17.12-17.30	Stijn Vansteelandt (Belgium) Doubly robust estimators for direct effects	Patrizia Schifano (Italy) Using Multiple Imputations to handle missing data: a national multicentre study of heroin dependents to evaluate the impact of treatments on mortality	Marek Molas (Belgium) Repeated measures models for bounded outcome scores	Vassilis G.S. Vasdekis. (Greece) Restricted maximum likelihood estimation for joint mean-covariance models from repeated measures data
17.30-17.48	Raluca Ionescu-Ittu (Romania) Assessing the Use of physicians' Prescription Preference as an Instrumental Variable to Reduce the Impact of Unobserved Confounding in Pharmaco-epidemiologic Studies	R Giorgi (France) The performance of multiple imputation for missing data in the context of regression relative survival model	Anastasia Eleftheraki (Greece) Bayesian Analysis of Two Correlated 2 × 2 Contingency Tables	Dimitris Rizopoulos (Belgium) A Two-Part Joint Model for the Analysis of Survival Times and Longitudinal Binary Data **Student Conference Award Winner**

ISCB 28 Alexandroupolis 2007: Draft Programme

Tue 31 Jul: AM

0900-1030

09.00-10.30	**IS3. DYNAMIC TREATMENT REGIMES IN CLINICAL TRIALS AND OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES** Anastasios Tsiatis (USA)		**CS21. VACCINES AND SURVEILLANCE**
09.00-09.30	Marie Davidian (USA) An Introduction to Dynamic Treatment Regimes	09.00-09.18	Andrew J. Dunning (USA) Predicting the Improvement in Efficacy of a High-Dose Influenza Vaccine from Assay Values of Vaccines
		09.18-09.36	Fabrice Bailleux (France) Modelling the clinical protection against influenza from antibody response: an application for the extrapolation of vaccine efficacy
09.30-10.00	Anastasios Tsiatis (USA) Estimating Mean Response as a Function of Treatment Duration in an Observational Study, Where Duration may be Informatively Censored	09.36-09.54	Jianli Li (Canada) Development of a Valid and Reliable Pressure Ulcer Prevalence and Incidence Surveillance Tool
		09.54-10.12	Toshiro Tango (Japan) A Scan Statistic for Detecting Highly Significant Signals with an Application to the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System
10.00-10.30	Susan Murphy (USA) SMART Designs for Developing Dynamic Treatment Regimes	10.12-10.30	Constantin Yiannoutsos (USA) Monitoring and evaluation, patient surveillance and loss to follow-up

1100-1230

	IS4. MENDELIAN RANDOMISATION George Davey Smith (UK)		**CS22. JOINT MODELLING**
11.00-11.15	George Davy-Smith (UK) Introduction	11.00-11.18	Ruwanthi Kolamunnage-Dona (UK) Joint modelling of competing risks in anti-epileptic drug trials and quality of life in epilepsy
11.15-11.40	Lyle Palmer (Australia) Mendelian randomisation and genetic epidemiology	11.18-11.36	Angela Wood (UK) A Joint Model For The Relationship Between Cardiovascular Disease And Past And Current Blood Pressure Levels.
		11.36-11.54	Ines Sousa (UK) Joint modelling of multivariate longitudinal data and multiple time-to-event outcomes
11.40-12.05	Nic Timpson (UK) Does elevated C Reactive Protein increase risk of cardiovascular disease?	11.54-12.12	Emmanuelle Deslandes (France) Joint modelling of multivariate longitudinal data and dropout process: An application to ICU data
12.05-12.30	Nuala Sheehan (UK) Mendelian randomisation and instrumental variables: what can and can't be done	12.12-12.30	Nikos Pantazis (Greece) Using information from time dependent markers and joint marker-survival models to obtain predictions of survival time

Wed 01 Aug: AM

0900-1030

	IS5. STATISTICAL BIOINFORMATICS: PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND CURRENT CHALLENGES Wally Gilks (UK)		**CS31. META ANALYSIS I**
09.00-09.30	Tom Nye (UK) Uncertainty in phylogenetic inference	09.00-09.18	Taye H. Hamza (Netherlands) Meta-analysis of diagnostic test data with more than one pair of sensitivity and specificity per study
		09.18-09.36	Andrea Jorgensen (UK) A meta-analysis and quality assessment of pharmacogenetic studies investigating association between CYP2C9 and VKORC1 and response to Warfarin
09.30-10.00	Thomas Hamelryck (UK) The statistics of biomolecular geometry	09.36-09.54	H. Putter (Netherlands) Two-stage estimation and composite likelihood in meta-analysis for survival curves
		09.54-10.12	Shagufta A. Sultan (Canada) Indirect Evidence: Indirect Treatment Comparisons in Meta-analysis
10.00-10.30	Brian Tom (UK) A Mechanistic approach to Bioinformatics – Integrative Genetics and Causal Modelling	10.12-10.30	Tom M. Palmer (UK) Meta-analysis of Mendelian randomization studies using study level information **Student Conference Award Winner**

1100-1300

11.00-12.00	**KEYNOTE LECTURE:** David Spiegelhalter (UK) Monitoring The Performance Of A Healthcare System
12.00-13.00	**AGM**

Wed 01 Aug: PM

1400-1530

14.00-15.30	CS32. CLINICAL TRIALS II	CS33. SURVIVAL ANALYSIS: THE COX MODEL	CS34. EPIDEMIOLOGY III	CS35. MISCELLANEOUS
14.00-14.18	Krista Fischer (Estonia) Estimation of the effect of blinding in a trial with open and blind arms.	Lisa Pennells (UK) Assessing the prognostic ability of the stratified Cox proportional hazards model	Valeria Edefonti (Italy) Nutrients dietary patterns and risk of breast and ovarian cancer	Entisar Elgmati (UK) Modelling correlated recurrent events: diarrhoea incidence amongst Brazilian infants
14.18-14.36	Michael O'Kelly (Ireland) Use of statistical techniques to detect potential fraud and non-compliance	B. C. Oskooei (UK) A systematic review of measures of explained variation, predictive accuracy, and information in survival analysis	Hannah E R Evans (UK) A validation study to confirm the reliability of primary care consultation data in the UK General Practice Research Database	MG Valsecchi (Italy) A nonparametric approach to inference on competing risks for treatment comparison in the absence of randomization
14.36-14.54	Patty Chondros (Australia) Comparison of methods for the analysis of pair matched cluster randomised trials: A simulation study	Georg Heinze (Austria) Implementation and application of the weighted Cox model	Aihua Liu (Canada) Testing and estimating interactions with multi-dimensional exposures: a simulation study	Dimitris Fouskakis (Greece) Incorporating cost in the Bayesian inference for the assessment of health care quality
14.54-15.12	Ruth Pickering (UK) The prevalence of multiplicity in HTA funded randomised controlled trials	Michael Schemper (Austria) Weighted estimation in Cox regression revisited	Edwin P. Martens (Netherlands) An important advantage of propensity score methods compared to logistic regression analysis	Dena Cohen (UK) Validation of a new quality of life instrument for multiple myeloma
15.12-15.30	John Whitehead (UK) Global testing in stroke trials: an evaluation of the methodology	Nico J.D. Nagelkerke (United Arab Emirates) A Coefficient of determination for conditional logistic regression and Cox's proportional hazards model	Lia Tzala (Greece) Bayesian latent variable modelling of multivariate spatio-temporal variation in cancer mortality in Greece	Merce Comas (Spain) Discrete-event simulation applied to health services research: analysis of demand and waiting time for knee arthroplasty

1600-1800

16.00-18.00	CS36. MISSING DATA	CS37. DESIGN OF CLINICAL TRIALS	CS38. STATISTICAL METHODS	CS39. BIOINFORMATICS I
16.00-16.18	Takashi Funatogawa (Japan) Autoregressive linear mixed effects models for the analysis of longitudinal data with dropouts	Stephen Walter (Canada) Relative efficiency of the expertise-based vs. conventional randomised control designs.	Robert Newcombe (UK) A relative measure of effect size for paired data generalising the Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed-ranks test statistic	Y. Sato (Japan) A modified maximum contrast method to detect pharmacokinetics-related genes in pharmacogenomics studies
16.18-16.36	Li C. Liu (USA) A Model for Incomplete Longitudinal Multivariate Ordinal Data	Elsa Valdés-Márquez (UK) A simple approach to Bayesian sample size calculation	Bendix Carstensen (UK) Practical aspects of method comparison studies	M.Luz Calle (Spain) Improving strategies for detecting genetic patterns of disease susceptibility in association studies
16.36-16.54	Roula Tsonaka (Belgium) Marginalized Semi-Parametric Shared Parameter Models for Incomplete Ordinal Responses	Nadine Houédé (USA) A phase I/II clinical trial to determine the best combination of a well-known cytotoxic chemotherapy with a new targeted therapy based on efficacy and toxicity	Max Moldovan (Australia) Exact tests from estimation followed by maximisation	Chris Greenman (UK) Detecting Cancer Genes with Sequencing Studies
16.54-17.12	Jane L Hutton (UK) Informative missing data in survival analysis	Carl-Fredrik Burman (Sweden) Alternative Inference for Adaptive Designs	Christel Faes (Belgium) The effective sample size and a small sample degrees of freedom method	Georgia Tsiliki (UK) Linkage Disequilibrium mapping and Haplotype Blocks
17.12-17.30	E. Dantan (France) Pattern mixture models and latent class models for the analysis of multivariate longitudinal data with informative dropout	Marcel Wolbers (Switzerland) Two-stage Randomization Designs in Drug Development	Stephen Senn (UK) An explanation of Dawid's selection paradox	Andrea S. Foulkes (USA) Mixed modelling for unobservable phase haplotype data
17.30-17.48	A. J. Copas (UK) Robustness Of GEE To Missing At Random Dropout	S. Poulopoulou (Greece) Optimal Multi-Stage Phase II Design with Sequential Testing of Hypotheses Within Each Stage	Max Moldovan (Australia) Exact, efficient and computationally feasible confidence limits	S.Waaijenborg (Netherlands) Penalized canonical correlation analysis to quantify the association between gene expressions and DNA-markers

Thu 02 Aug: AM

0900-1000

09.00-10.30	**MINI SYMPOSIUM: ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY** Klea Katsouyanni (Greece)		**CS41. META ANALYSIS II**	**CS42. MULTISTATE AND RELATED MODELS**
09.00-09.30	Klea Katsouyanni (Greece) Short-term effects of air pollution: results from epidemiological studies	09.00-09.18	Guobing Lu (UK) The Role of Consistency Equations in Multi-parameter Evidence Synthesis	L.C. de Wreede (Netherlands) Prediction probabilities and associated standard errors in multi-state models
		09.18-09.36	Masayuki Henmi (Japan) A sensitivity analysis allowing for all possible selection processes of studies in meta analysis	Simona Iacobelli (Italy) Reporting Multi-State Models
09.30-10.00	Giota Touloumi (Greece) Methodological aspects in the analysis of data in studies of short-term effects of air pollution	09.36-09.54	Leon Bax (Netherlands) The trim and fill method revisited and revised; distinguishing test and sensitivity analysis	F. Siannis (UK) Modelling the impact on the randomized treatment effect of a potent drug introduced post randomization
		09.54-10.12	Angela Wood (UK) Correcting for exposure and confounder measurement error in meta-analysis of epidemiological studies using individual participant data	Matthieu Resche-Rigon (France) Development of a test statistic to compare two functions of current survival without relapse
10.00-10.30	Gerard Hoek (Netherlands) Studies of long-term effects of air pollution	10.12-10.30	Keith Abrams (UK) Model specification for meta-analysis of individual patient data with time-to-event outcomes	M Wolkewitz (Germany) Analysis of hospital outbreak data: a review of methods estimating the transmission rate

1100-1230

11.00-12.30	**MINI SYMPOSIUM: ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY** Klea Katsouyanni (Greece)		**CS43. CLASSIFICATION AND DIAGNOSIS**	**CS44. BIOINFORMATICS II**
11.00-11.30	Paola Michelozzi (Italy) Effects of meteorological variables on health: epidemiological evidence	11.00-11.18	Christos T. Nakas (Greece) A methodology for the comparison of ROC umbrella volumes applied to the assessment of lung cancer diagnostic markers.	S Bersimis S (Greece) Discriminating and clustering membrane proteins using the exact distribution of various runs-based rules
		11.18-11.36	D. Matranga (Italy) Latent Class Models to Assess the Accuracy of Medical Tests for the Diagnosis of Reflux Disease	Andreas Gleiss (Austria) Adaptive trimmed t-tests for identifying predominant upregulation in a microarray experiment
11.30-12.00	Shakoor Hajat (UK) Issues in modelling temperature-health relationships in time-series regression analyses	11.36-11.54	Stanislav Katina (Slovakia) Does it depend on registration when searching for shape outliers? A worked example from cephalometrics	Suzy Van Sanden (Belgium) Biomarkers for a categorical response variable in early drug development microarray experiments
		11.54-12.12	Wendy London (USA) An Optimality Criterion for Prognostic Risk Groups in Paediatric Cancer: Analysis of Data from the Children's Oncology Group	Anja Victor (Japan) Multiple test procedures for discrete test statistics in genetic association studies
12.00-12.30	Annibale Biggeri (Italy) Bayesian meta-analysis and health impact evaluation in the study of heat effect on mortality	12.12-12.30	Michael Fahey (UK) Multivariate mixture models to identify dietary patterns in food data and to explore association between diet and colorectal cancer incidence	Magdalena Murawska (Poland) Evaluation of surrogate markers in early drug development microarray experiments

Presenting Author	Poster Title
1. Ahmad Z. (Pakistan)	Burden Of Diabetes In Quetta-Pakistan: A Statistical Approach
2. Akhtar-Danesh N. (Canada)	A Meta-Analysis Of The Correlation Between Plasma Vitamin C And Vitamin C Intake
3. Akhtar-Danesh N. (Canada)	Validity Of Self-Reported BMI For Estimating Overweight And Obesity
4. Antaraki A. (Greece)	Short-Term Effects Of Air Pollution On Mortality In Thessaloniki, Greece During The Years 1997-2000
5. Ayranci U. (Turkey)	The Determination Of Study Number To Be Included To Summary Receiver Operating Characteristic (SROC) Curve In Diagnostic Test Data: A Monte Carlo Simulation
6. Bagos P. (Greece)	Generalized Least Squares For Assessing Trends In Cumulative Meta-Analysis With Applications In Genetic Epidemiology
7. Bekiroglu N. (Turkey)	A Study Of Reliability Measures And Responsiveness Indexes
8. Brandao M.P. (Portugal)	Risk Factors To Non-Transmissible Diseases Among Portuguese University Students
9. Bugarini R. (USA)	Associations Between The Correlates Of Protection And Implication On The Statistical Power For Demonstrating Non-Inferiority: Application Of A Re-Sampling Method On A Large Phase Iii Study Comparing A Novel Influenza Vaccine To An Egg-Derived Influenza ..
10. Cai Z. (Japan)	New Estimators For Treatment Effects In The Presence Of Noncompliance
11. Calle M.L. (Spain)	Competing Risks Analysis Of Patients With Bladder Cancer
12. Chen Y. (Singapore)	Generalized Likelihood Ratio Test For Multiple Quantitative Trait Loci Detection
13. Cvancarova Smastuen M. (Norway)	Design And Analysis Of Time To Event For Two Groups When Group Membership Is A Time-Dependent Covariate
14. Diya L. (Belgium)	Quality Of Care For Cardiac Surgery Patients In Belgian Acute Hospitals
15. Edwin M. P. (Netherlands)	The Use Of The Overlapping Coefficient In Propensity Score Analysis
16. Enachescu D. (Romania)	Identifiability Problems Of Compartmental Modelling **Conference Award for Scientists Winner**
17. Faltus V. (Czech Republic)	Logistic Regression In In-Hospital Mortality Modelling In Acute Myocardial Infarction Data
18. Fors M. (Cuba)	Application Of Science Based Models To The Study Of The Placebo Response In Antidepressant Clinical Trials **Conference Award for Scientists Winner**
19. Funatogawa I. (Japan)	Dynamic Dose Modification Based On Bivariate Autoregressive Linear Mixed Effects Model
20. Gao F. (Singapore)	Problems With The Application Of The Kernel Smoothing Method To The Detection Of Peaks In The Hazard Function
21. Gasparini M. (Italy)	Noninferiority Trials With Survival Data
22. Giorgi R. (France)	The Performance Of Multiple Imputation For Missing Data In The Context Of Regression Relative Survival Model
23. Gorkiewicz M. (Poland)	Quasi-Linear Path Model For Episodic Memory Under The DRM Paradigm
24. Gunther K. (Germany)	Improvement Of Early Vascular Changes And Cardiovascular Risk Factors In Obese Children After A Six-Month Exercise Program
25. Halabi S. (USA)	Adjustment On The Type I Error Rate For A Clinical Trial That Monitors For Both An Intermediate And Primary Endpoints
26. Harbord R.M. (UK)	An Introduction To Instrumental Variables Estimation For Mendelian Randomization
27. Heinze G. (Austria)	Monotone Likelihood And Time-Dependent Covariates In Cox's Model
28. Hirakawa A. (Japan)	A Statistical Method To Estimate Sensitivity And Specificity For Identifying Marker Genes With Microarray Data
29. Huszti E. (Canada)	Simulations To Assess The Advantages Of Markov Modeling Of Covariates Effects On Competing Events
30. Jayasinghe C. (Sri Lanka)	Use Of Assay Sensitivity As An Inclusion Criterion For Meta-Analysis: Examine The Result Of Bias
31. Jayatillake R. (Sri Lanka)	Logistic Regression Model With Cluster Effect: An Application In A Cross Sectional Study In Management Of Poisoned Patients In North Central Province In Sri Lanka **Conference Award for Scientists Winner**
32. Jones H.E. (UK)	A Comparison Of Predictive Systems For MRSA Bacteraemia In Multiple Hospitals
33. Journot V. (France)	Validity And Reproducibility Of A Risk Scale In Academic Clinical Research Studies
34. Kaptoge S. (UK)	Associations Of Plasma Fibrinogen Levels With Established Cardiovascular Risk Factors, Inflammatory Markers And Other Characteristics: Individual Participant Meta-Analysis Of 154, 211 Adults In 31 Prospective Studies.
35. Karahan S. (Turkey)	Comparison Of The Some Agreement Measures In Staging The Lung Cancer
36. Kolamunnage-Dona R. (UK)	Modelling The Association Between Diabetes Onset And Pancreatic Cancer Allowing For The Competing Risks Of Resection
37. Kourlaba G. (Greece)	Comparison Of Diagnostic Accuracy Of Indices Developed Using Different Number Of Partitions For Index Components
38. Kriner M. (Germany)	Mars In Survival Analysis: A New Method To Identify Prognostic Factors
39. Kul S. (Turkey)	Does Location Place Of The Right Censored Observations Affect Kaplan Meier Estimates?
40. Le W. (Canada)	A Comparison Of Methods For The Analysis Of Pre-Post Data In RCTs
41. Letal J. (Czech Republic)	Joint Analysis Of Influence Of Antipsychotics Versus Regime Factors On Weight Of Hospitalized Patients
42. Lim H. (Canada)	Assessment Of Multiple Failure Time Models For The Analysis Of Recurrent Event Data
43. Lim H.J. (South Korea)	A Three-Dimensional Morphometric Analysis For Diagnosis Of Facial Asymmetry
44. Liu D. (UK)	Combining Multiple Measurements From A Series Of Dilutions Of One Sample By Elisa
45. Lu M. (USA)	Analytical Issues On Multiplex Ligation-Dependent Probe Amplification Assay (Mlpa) Genetic Dissection Of Non-Tumour And Tumour Tissues
46. Mahdi S. (Barbados)	Combined Tdt Statistics: Distribution And Genetic Application
47. Mallett S. (UK)	Remark Profile Study: Reporting Of Participant Flow And Events In Prognostic Studies Of Tumour Markers
48. Manda S.O.M. (UK)	Bayesian Methods For Profiling Acute Hospitals' Mortality Rates For Acute Coronary Syndromes In England And Wales Using The Myocardial Infarction National Audit Project Database
49. Maracy M. (Iran)	The Complier-Average Causal Effect (CACE) Of Psychological Treatment For Depression
50. Marshall R.J. (New Zealand)	Identification Of Risk Groups For Low Birth Weight: Comparison Of Cart And Span Data Partitions
51. Mohammadpour R.A. (Iran)	Factor Analysis With Principal Components Of Persian Version Of Sf-36 Questionnaire Of Health-Related Of Life In Iran
52. Muniz Terrera G. (UK)	Age Related Cognitive Decline: A Growth Mixture Model Application In The Presence Of Missing Data.
53. Mylona K. (Greece)	A Comparative Study Of Variable Selection Procedures Applied In Real Medical Data
54. Nixon R.M. (Switzerland)	Assessing Screening Sensitivity And Progression Rates Of Colorectal Cancer Using Multi-State Modeling
55. Oskrochi G. (UK)	Muscle Activity Changes At The Shoulder After Treatment For Breast Cancer: A Multivariate Random Effects Modelling Approach
56. Palmer C.R. (UK)	A Data-Dependent Design In Practice: Issues And Examples

Presenting Author	Poster Title
57. Panella M. (Italy)	A Cluster Randomized Control Trial Of The Effectiveness Of Clinical Pathways
58. Paoletti X. (France)	A Comparison Of Model Choices For The Continual Reassessment Method In Phase I Clinical Trials
59. Parrinello G. (Italy)	Cardiopathy And Nephropathy In Type Ii Diabetes: Dependent Competing Risks
60. Pechlivanoglou P. (Netherlands)	Developing A Survival Analysis Research Tool To Model The Pharmaceutical Market – An Illustration Of Patent Expired Products
61. Pedotti P. (Netherlands)	Comparison Of Gene Expression Data In Different Commercial And Home-Spotted Platforms: A Biological Question Driven Study
62. Philipson P.M. (UK)	Comparative Review Of Methods For Handling Drop-Out In Longitudinal Studies
63. Presanis A. (UK)	Prevalence Of HIV In England And Wales, 2001-2005: Estimates From A Bayesian Synthesis Of Evidence
64. Price M. (UK)	Parameterising The Effect Of Cotrimoxazole Prophylaxis In A Multi-State Markov Model Of HIV Disease Progression In African Children
65. Procter M. (UK)	Imputation Methods For Missing Quality Of Life Data In The Adjuvant Breast Cancer Trials International Breast Cancer Study Group (IBCSG) Trial Vi And Vii
66. Ramanrajah S. (Sri Lanka)	Dynamical And Information Theoretic Approach: A Tool To Characterizing Brain Functions
67. Rancinan C. (France)	Measurement Of Clinical Site Quality In Clinical Trials: Experience Of The French National Agency For Research On Aids And Viral Hepatitis (ANRS),2003-2006
68. Reiczigel J. (Hungary)	Exact Confidence Intervals For The Prevalence Of Disease In Case An Imperfect Diagnostic Test
69. Rejali M. (Iran)	Sensitivity And Specificity Of Child Anthropometry Indices And Mortality Risk Among Children
70. Roli G. (Italy)	Hierarchical Logistic Regression In A Multicentre Study Of Multiple Dietary Effects On A Disease Outcome: A Fully Bayesian Approach
71. Rossa A. (Poland)	Unbiased Estimation Of Survival Probabilities Under Right-Censoring When Sample Size Is Random **Conference Award for Scientists Winner**
72. Sanchez Olavarria M.P. (Chile)	Drugs Of High Variability: A Study For Average Bioequivalence, Scaled Bioequivalence And Other Approaches In Furosemide Tablets
73. Sanjoy K.P. (UK)	Modelling Continuous Glucose Monitoring Data: A Statistical Challenge
74. Sayed Mohsen H. (Iran)	A Risk Scores For Undiagnosed Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Subjects
75. Schuller J.C. (Switzerland)	Quality Of Life-Analysis Revisited: The Covariance Function
76. Shariff N. (India)	Statistical Methods To Analyse Ordinal Categorical Data Arising From The Clinical Trial Of Drugs From The Pharmaceutical Industry **Conference Award for Scientists Winner**
77. Soullier N. (France)	Multiple Imputation To Estimate Success Rate In In Vitro Fertilization
78. Stanisz-Wallis K. (Poland)	A Comparison Of Kohonen Neural Network And Principal Component Analysis In Reduction Of Multivariate Date
79. Tai B.C. (Singapore)	First Event Or Marginal Estimation Of Cause-Specific Hazards For Analysing Correlated Multivariate Failure Time Data?
80. Takahashi K. (Japan)	Spatial Scan Statistics Based On P-Value For Detecting Disease Clusters
81. Takami I. (Japan)	Practical Issues In Inter-rater Reliability Studies (1) Analysis For Nominal Data
82. Takami I. (Japan)	Practical Issues In Inter-rater Reliability Studies (2) Application Of Weighted Kappa And ICC
83. Tan F.E.S. (Netherlands)	Robust Designs For Generalized Linear Models In The Presence Of Covariates
84. Tazhibi M. (Iran)	Applying The Roc Curve Estimation In Detection Of Rifampin Resistance Patterns In Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Strains
85. Teerenstra S. (Netherlands)	Sample Size Planning Of A Cluster Randomized Trial With Three Levels
86. Tekle F.B. (Netherlands)	Too Many Repeated Measurements Over Time Is A Waste Of Resources
87. Thalabard J.C. (France)	Calibration Of A Phase 2 Randomized Trial Based On Repeated Measurements Of A Clinical Score In A Rare Genetic Disease
88. Thomas S. (Germany)	Procedural Methods For Establishing A Clinically Relevant Effect
89. Topcu C. (Turkey)	The Multistate Approach That Is Developed As An Alternative To The Product Limit Method
90. Tudora A. (Romania)	Comparison Between Two Risk Systems In Assessing The Severity And Outcome In Upper GI Bleeding
91. Ukoumunne O. (Australia)	Analysis Of Cluster Randomised Trials In Health Care With Substantial Clustering At The Organisation And Health Professional Levels
92. Urban H.J. (Switzerland)	A Bayesian Network Approach For Disease Risk Modelling Of Emphysema
93. Valenta Z. (Czech Republic)	Modelling Prognostic Markers Of Subclinical Atherosclerosis In Czech Middle-Aged Women
94. Van Calster B. (Belgium)	Piecewise Logistic Regression Models Can Be A Practical Solution To Nonlinearity In The Logit: Examples On Breast Cancer
95. Van Der Tweel I. (Netherlands)	A Screening Strategy For Mode Of Inheritance In Association Studies
96. Vernic C. (Romania)	Late Potentials In Acute Myocardial Infarction: Survival Analysis **Conference Award for Scientists Winner**
97. Wagner P. (Sweden)	An R-Based Webtool For Analysis And Reporting
98. Whitehead A. (UK)	Fitting Models For The Joint Action Of Two Drugs Using SAS(R)
99. Winkens B. (Netherlands)	Optimal And Robust Designs For Randomized Clinical Trials With Repeated Measurements
100. Yamaoka K. (Japan)	Combining Multiple Endpoints In Meta-Analysis: Effects Of Lifestyle Modification On Metabolic Syndrome
101. Yiannakopoulou E. (Greece)	Methodological Issues Regarding Safety Evaluation In Randomized Controlled Trials Of The Effectiveness Of Antibiotic Prophylaxis For The Prevention Of Postoperative Wound Infection
102. Yoshimura K. (Japan)	Randomization-Based Interval Estimation Of Hazard Ratio Parameters
103. Zrimsek P. (Slovenia)	Detecting Of MMP Active Forms In Contribution To Clinical Decision Making Of Osteoarthritis In Horses Using A Reversed Decision Tree

Book Review by Rainer Muche (Germany)

Stephen D. Simon	Statistical Evidence in Medical Trials	Oxford (2006) 0-190856760-X

Understanding published results of clinical studies and judging the relevance of these results is nowadays one of the major tasks of health professionals. The subject called *evidence based Medicine* (EBM) is therefore important and uses a lot of statistical methods. This book addresses the background to evaluating medical research in this direction. The aim of the book is to help readers understand published research and to avoid the pitfalls. Simon says, that he “did not write this book to teach how to conduct good research. I wrote it for consumers of research, not producers of research.” The book is well-written in an entertaining way, so that this mostly dry subject is easily understandable.

Chapter 1 deals with the selection of control groups in medical research. The principle of structural equality of the groups, randomization and the problems of non-randomised studies are discussed as well as the principles of statistical adjustment in case of potential bias.

Who was excluded from the study and the analysis? This question about the selection of study participants, drop-outs, internal and external validity as well as ITT- and ATP-analyses is addressed in chapter 2.

The next chapter looks at the clinical importance of the results by discussing the choice of the outcome variables and their measurement. Another point in this context is blindness in the study design.

In Chapter 4, external evidence from outside the study is addressed. Are there any other associations in the literature? The external context of the results of a study is crucial for understanding of the results. Simon discusses these points and the possible conflicts of interest of the authors and some aspects of fraud.

The role of systematic reviews and meta-analyses is discussed in chapter 5, in which various pitfalls of combining results (such as lack of homogeneity of the studies) are described.

Description of the statistical terms used in the medical literature is presented in chapter 6. This includes terms of statistical testing like “Type I and II error”, “confidence interval”, “p-value” but also statistical basics like correlation, risk ratios, prevalence and incidence as well as survival curves. All of the terms are presented without formulas.

The last chapter gives an introduction to searching for evidence and results in PubMed and the Internet. This provides a useful guideline for starting one's own research, whilst directing the reader to a librarian for more advanced help.

Each chapter begins with a series of questions that someone reading research papers should consider. Each of these questions is discussed in more depth in the following sections. At the end of these sections Simon gives hints at what a reader should focus on (What to look for?). Beside this, Simon gives a critical debate on the matter discussed in the chapter (counterpoint), giving an alternative viewpoint on some of the issues discussed. Every chapter ends with a short summary and exercises left to the reader.

Two major advantages of the book deserve to be highlighted. Stephen Simon produces a special surrounding for learning, by use of a pictorial and humorous description of the matters under scrutiny. The book is informally written. Some of the chapters begin with a cartoon sketch chosen to illustrate the focus of the chapter. He uses analogies (e.g. “Apples and Oranges?“ for comparison of groups in chapter 1 or a courtroom to look for external evidence in chapter 4) to direct the reader to the issue to be understood. The second major advantage of the book is that many examples and case studies (both positive and negative ones) from medical research are presented. All examples are referenced and footnotes indicate where the reader can get more information. All examples are chosen so that the full text can be obtained from the Web for free. The bibliography to the book includes 234 citations.

I recommend this book to readers of medical research papers who want to understand the results in reference to evidence based medicine. This may be health professionals or medical researchers. For students in medical and nursing schools as well as for public health and epidemiology students it can be recommended also, especially for students in problem based learning groups. Furthermore, the book is very valuable for teachers of EBM, because of the huge bibliography of presented papers used as examples, which can be obtained free of charge.

Book Review by Gaj Vidmar (Slovenia)

Phillip Good	Permutation, Parametric, and Bootstrap Tests of Hypotheses (Third Edition)	Springer (2005) 0-387-20279-X

This book has already been reviewed in three statistical journals (Annis, 2005; Bose, 2005; Droge, 2006). Furthermore, its previous edition (Permutation Tests: A Practical Guide to Resampling Methods for Testing Hypotheses) was reviewed by Marden (2001), and the first edition was also subject to statistical review (Modarres, 1995; Niknian, 1995). Moreover, finding the book's table of contents on the web is nowadays literally just three clicks away. Hence, in an attempt to complement those sources, this review mainly brings my subjective impressions and personal opinions, not even limited to the book but also related to the author, meaning Phillip Good not only as a statistician, but also as a person(ality).

Actually, that may not be entirely outside the realm of the book. From the start of the journey into testing hypotheses (or, more accurately, making decisions, as the author emphasises), the book refers to the author's personal experience. In the introductory chapter, it is his experience as an accomplished biologist; elsewhere, it is mainly his career in the statistical consulting business. In general, personal touch is Good's trademark not only in the half a dozen statistical monographs that he has published in recent years, but also in the online courses on resampling that he has been teaching with great success at *statistics.com*. Furthermore, he is also a fiction author, and autobiographical elements pervade his writings.

In one of those writings, he calls himself brash, and there are traces of that trait in the book. Namely, much as I admire and endorse his versatility, as a reader I got frustrated on a number of occasions when Good's wide knowledge and quick thinking made him jump far beyond my ability to follow. Nevertheless, it was deserved because a reference to a figure in the seventh chapter on the second page should have signalled me that this is no book for a sluggish mind.

Similarly, there are only twenty-two figures in the book, though I would have preferred to see more, possibly at the expense of some lemmas or theorems. Another demanding feature of the book is that it does not provide solutions to the exercises, especially because it announces that "many essential results are presented in the form of exercises". This is supposed to benefit the students, instructors and autodidacts alike, but speaking in the name of the latter, who usually have less time and often also less (recent) mathematical training than the former, I would have gladly read some solutions, and I would also not mind some easier exercises.

However, the book is intended for a two-semester graduate course on hypothesis testing and decision theory. Consequently, it is also natural that its theoretical appendix utilises probability measures in its proofs. An undergraduate student or a strictly applied statistician would be – as I was – better off with the third edition of Good's Resampling Methods: A Practical Guide to Data Analysis (published in 2005 by Birkhäuser), which is easier to read, narrower in scope, less mathematical and purely practically oriented.

Otherwise, I can only praise the book. Other reviewers have already emphasised the book's practical data analysis aspects, such as strategies for dealing with outliers, guidelines for selection of appropriate statistical tests, consideration of relative strengths and weaknesses of alternative procedures in terms of the conflicting goals of robustness and power, and considerations on choosing between parametric, bootstrap and permutation tests in a wide variety of settings. I would add the software aspects – code snippets, considerations of increasing computational efficiency, and review of software for bootstrap and permutation testing – to this list. Nowadays it is easy to criticise such endeavours as becoming outdated soon after publication, but had it not been for the author competently keeping up with the pace of hardware and software development for more than a decade, this book would not exist. Keeping in mind actual computations in addition to real-life applications of every method holds the author's promise of a "strongly theoretical work with the emphasis on the practical".

To summarise, like other works by Phillip Good, *Permutation, Parametric, and Bootstrap Tests of Hypotheses* is not meant to pass unnoticed. It is not likely to succeed in convincing every student and practitioner of statistics that "distribution-free permutation procedures are the primary method for testing hypotheses" and that "parametric procedures and the bootstrap are to be reserved for the few situations in which they may be applicable", which is claimed in the preface, but to the best of judgment, it is a very interesting, profound, modern and useful book.

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Book Review by Anneke Grobler (South Africa)

Stephen Senn	Dicing with Death	Cambridge (2003) 0-521-54023-2

Statistics is a wonderful discipline. It has it all: mathematics and philosophy, analysis and empiricism, as well as applicability, relevance and the fascination of data. It demands clear thinking, good judgment and flair. Statisticians are engaged in an exhausting but exhilarating struggle with the biggest challenge that philosophy makes to science: how do we translate information into knowledge? (From the preface of Dicing with death).

For passionate statisticians, whose bedside reading comprises something other than The Da Vinci Code, this book is the perfect choice: amusing, light and readable. The book tries very hard not to be too mathematical and discusses philosophical issues in statistics. It is filled with wit, puns (these tend to be a bit much at times), humorous anecdotes, paradoxes, controversies, historical information, sidetracks and quotations; definitely not a dry read. Senn also focuses on the biographical information of great statisticians, along with historical detail. Senn explores the intellectual challenges of statistics, the persons who shaped it and the philosophical questions with which statistics grapples.

Chapter 1: Circling the square: Senn makes a distinction between the act of counting and keeping statistics, and the science of statistics, in which the focus is on knowledge generation. The concepts of probability and likelihood are introduced with clever examples; leading to discussions of Simpson's paradox (with an example from OJ Simpson's trial) and regression to the mean. Senn ends the chapter with the words, "Statistics can be deceptively easy. Everybody believes they can understand and interpret them." The examples in the chapter show that the interpretation of statistics is not as straightforward as it may seem.

Chapter 2: The diceman cometh: This chapter delves into the history of probabilistic reasoning and significance tests applied to data, describing the work and lives of Arbuthnot and Bernoulli. Bayes statistics is examined. The interpretation of probability is described, as well as how it has changed over time, with reference to Laplace, Fisher, Student and Karl Pearson.

Chapter 3: Trials of life: The focus in this chapter is on randomised clinical trials, with a strong focus on randomisation. The first use of randomisation in a clinical trial and the contributions of Sir Bradford Hill and Fisher to randomisation are considered. Fisher's tea test (a famous experiment involving a lady's ability to detect whether the milk or tea was poured first) is used to illustrate the value of randomising and blinding experiments. The philosophy behind randomisation and criticism against it is mentioned, leading to an extended discussion of ethics and the moral justification of randomisation in clinical trials. Senn argues that a more ethical alternative to the randomised clinical trial does not always exist.

Chapter 4: Of dice and men: The main philosophical schools around statistical theories of inference and probability are discussed (including Hume, Laplace, de Finetti, Jeffreys, Neyman, Fisher, Popper), with a focus on Bayes statistics and the problems of statistical inference. Some historical information is given.

Chapter 5: Sex and the single patient: After a brief discussion of the differences between splitters and poolers; the physicians' health study is thrashed out. The rest of the chapter is devoted to the problems brought about by politicians' insistence on the inclusion of representative numbers of women and minorities in clinical trials. In order to examine the effect of including adequate numbers of patients in the various subgroups, sample size calculation and the standard error are described succinctly and lucidly.

Chapter 6: A hale view of pills (and other matters): This chapter discusses odds ratios, illustrating these with examples such as the efficacy of prayer and the seminal studies by Hill and Doll on the link between smoking and lung cancer. Emphasis is placed on the fact that some will die; the statistician needs to determine whether these deaths are in excess of those in normal circumstances, before conclusions can be drawn. Senn makes a forceful argument that one event does not necessarily cause another simply by preceding the latter event.

Chapter 7: Time's tables: A review of actuarial life tables, life expectancies and their history leads to a discussion of the epidemiological analysis of person time and hazard rates. Followed by a description of survival analysis and the proportional hazard regression model of David Cox, the most referenced statistical article.

Chapter 8: A dip in the pool: This chapter, as many others in the book, starts with a historical insert, focusing on the meta-analysis of the prophylactic value of enteric fever inoculations by Pearson. The discussion then moves to an explication of meta-analysis in general, evidence-based medicine and the Cochrane collaboration.

Chapter 9: The things that bug us: The modelling of infectious processes with differential equations, under which both disease and religion are included, is the focus of this chapter. Stochastic processes are brilliantly explained, starting with coin-tossing examples (as is often done throughout the book). Although I spent a university semester on stochastic processes, I would not have been able to describe these processes before reading this book. This chapter makes it much clearer. The chain binomial distribution is discussed, and the deterministic model of infectious diseases of Kermack and McKendrick described, along with the threshold theorem, again with some real-life examples regarding inoculation of children.

Chapter 10: The law is a ass: The chapter contains an argument for evidence-based medical data in court cases. The chapter begins with a description of the Poisson distribution and how this can be used to describe the frequency of events over time. Senn then moves to the discussion of the Island problem, where someone has been murdered and a known number of individuals could be the guilty party. With various assumptions around the guilty person having a specific characteristic, the probability of someone's guilt is calculated. The author assimilates this information with a discussion of law suits following silicone breast implants, together with statistical findings on the risks associated with breast implants.

Chapter 11: The empire of the sum: The importance of statistics is illustrated by the current debate surrounding the MMR vaccine's alleged causation of autism.

I often feel that young statisticians fresh from university know formulas and plug numbers into computer packages. They, however, have little understanding of the philosophy behind their methods. This book should be required reading for such students, who wish to make medical statistics or research their career. Another significant contribution is the inclusion of Bayes statistics, something that introductory courses in statistics do not cover. The book is an approachable source of information on Bayes statistics for the non-statistician.

My major criticism is that the book is a Smorgasbord, and it is sometimes difficult to follow the flow of the writing. Interesting threads appear to be interrupted by tangential information. While the reader forgives this, as the interruptions are so interesting, they do detract and are not needed to illustrate the point. This book is a bit like being taken for a ride on Senn's hobby horses, but the ride is so enjoyable the reader does not seem to mind. The book contains just enough mathematical and technical details to illustrate its main points, but does not provide in-depth treatment. It is definitely not mathematically challenging to read. Anyone wanting to use a method in this book would need to consult a more technical source before implementing it.

The audience of this book may include any of the following:

- Scientifically literate professionals from fields other than statistics who need a concise overview of the medical statistical field; the educated non-mathematical audience who would derive benefit from an almost mathematical source.
- A medical statistician who needs to explain to her mother or husband what she does all day.
- Beginner statisticians who may know the formulas, but not the philosophy underlying the subject.
- A statistics teacher in need of something to enliven his/her lectures.

This book enthusiastically celebrates the role and contribution of statistics to the life sciences and describes the logic, utility and reasoning behind statistics. Most statisticians need to read this book, even if only to be convinced that ours is an exciting profession. The main message of the book seems to be that statistics count. I recommend the book as excellent reading. The book contains sufficient examples to make statistics classes more interesting, insights into the ambiguous aspects of statistics, philosophical food for thought and just plain fun to make it worth the read.

Book Review by Faans Steyn (South Africa)

George E. P. Box, J. Stuart Hunter and William G. Hunter	Statistics for Experimenters (Second Edition)	Wiley (2005) 0-471-71813-0

The objectives (according to the preface) for this second edition remain the same as those of the first: "(1) To make available to experimenters scientific and statistical tools that can greatly catalyse innovation, problem solving and discovery; (2) to illustrate how these tools may be used by and with subject matter specialists as their investigations proceed."
The authors also state: "Developments ... are the receptive atmosphere these techniques now encounter in industry and the present universal availability of very fast computers allowing where necessary, the ready use of computationally intensive methods." The material of the original book has been rearranged and largely rewritten with the object of ensuring even greater accessibility to its users. Many issues, in addition to statistical considerations, have been emphasized to be attended to in order to do successful investigation. Also, the need for the statistician to work closely with subject matter specialists, is pointed out.
A feature of the book is the questions together with many problems which are included at the end of each chapter. It serves the dual purpose (1) of reviewing each chapter before reading it to identify key points to guide the reading, and (2) to use it as practice and exercise after reading the chapter.
I rather enjoyed reading this edition after using the first edition extensively for years.
Chapter 1 serves as a good introduction since it deals with inductive-deductive learning in everyday experience. This is illustrated by a chemical example which takes the reader through the iterative cycles of investigation. A list of references for further reading is included at the end of this (and for each remaining) chapter, also giving some suppliers of statistical software, useful to readers.
Chapter 2 gives the basics for the reader with no statistical background. I found the contents stimulating and especially the graphs very illuminating (e.g. Figure 2.12 illustrates sampling distributions far better than many pages of text).
Chapter 3 forms, to some extent, the basis of the book, dealing with reference distributions, tests and confidence intervals, applied to the comparison of two entities. The concepts of randomization and blocking are introduced together with the randomization distributions from which *t*-tests emerge without the assumption of normal distributed data. Chapter 4 extends these concepts where a number of entities are compared, dealing with ANOVA. Again, good graphical representations help the reader to understand the concepts. Also, randomized blocks, Latin-squares and useful Greco-Latin squares are discussed.
Factorial designs at two levels are the topics of chapter 5. Extensive examples of the 2^3 and 2^4 designs are given. Dot plots as well as normal probability plots are utilized to check assumptions. Chapter 6 extends the two-level experimental designs to fractional factorial designs. It gives examples of 8 run experiments with 4 and 7 factors and shows how to incorporate block effects. A table is included which gives such designs up to 128 runs and 11 factors. Chapter 7 extends the previous chapter and covers Plackett-Burman designs in multiples of 4 runs, orthogonal contrasts and only main effects. It is shown how to add runs by entropy reduction and the chapter concludes by justification of the use of fractional designs.
Data transformation in factorial designs is the topic of Chapter 8, explaining a two-way factorial decomposition of the transformation sum of squares to deal with heterogeneity of variance. Variance stabilizing transformations and "lambda plots" to obtain the appropriate transformation are then discussed. Chapter 9 deals with split plot designs, variance components estimation and transition of error. In this last topic it is explained how to calculate in practice the variance of a nonlinear function of variables with known variances.
In chapter 10 least squares estimation is discussed together with the design of experiments with genuine replicates to obtain such data. Examples are given of two independent variables without intercept, indicator variables and orthogonal polynomials.
Chapter 11 lays the foundation of response surface methods. It explains by means of excellent graphical displays 3-dimensional contour plots, trends and steepest ascents. In the case of two-factor second order models the different types of response surfaces are displayed very clearly in figure 11.5. Other topics in this chapter include: central composite designs, sequential design strategies, non-central composite designs, canonical analysis to obtain a stationary point and decide on its nature, Box-Behnken designs with 3, 4 and 5 factors on 3 levels each and other 3-level designs to fit second-order response models. With this background, chapter 12 gives some applications of response surface methods. First it shows how a product design can be improved with an example of a paper helicopter. Among others, an example of how a response function can be simplified by data transformation is given, followed by how to detect and exploit active and inactive factor spaces for multiple response data.
Chapter 13, 14 and 15 deal with topics important to industry. In Chapter 13 an introduction is given to the design of robust products and processes, by first dealing with environmental robustness and then with robustness to component variation. Chapter 14, in its turn, introduces forecasting and time series. Topics here are process monitoring, process adjustment and a brief look at some time series models including concepts like stationarity, autocorrelation and moving averages. The utilization of models to make forecasts is then discussed. The book concludes with a chapter on Evolutionary Process Operation (EVOP). An example is given of 20 runs in 10 cycles to see if adjustments of the process give better yield, followed by examples with more than one factor.
In conclusion, I can frankly recommend this book to any scientist who needs a basic understanding of the statistical concepts in experimentation.

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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

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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 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.*			
Vice-President: Norbert Victor	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
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 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.*			
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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 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.*			
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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 have been a member of ISCB for over 15 years, and was a member of the ExCom for the period 2003- 2006.*			
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ISCB Membership and Googlegroups Emailing Lists

From Rita Schou (ISCB Office) and David W. Warne (Googlegroups 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@ googlegroups.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 googlegroup, 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 Googlegroup Administrator.

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Please contact the chairs of these subcommittees for further information.

Title & Email	Terms of Reference	Members	Email addresses
Communications iscb-comms@ googlegroups.com	1. To consider the future of the Newsletter, including ways to support the Editor, procedures for transition of editorship. 2. To maintain the ISCB homepage on the World Wide Web and facilitate placement of annual meeting information on the homepage. 3. To consider other communications with members, such as through email or the World Wide Web.	**Chair:** David W Warne (CH) **Secretary:** Bjarne Nielsen (DK) **Members:** Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I), Harry Southworth (UK) John Whitehead (UK)	 david_w_warne@ bluewin.ch bn@ Cyncron.com grazia.valsecchi@ unimib.it harry.southworth@ googlemail.com j.r.whitehead@ reading.ac.uk
Conference Organising iscb-conf-org@ googlegroups.com	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. 2. Document processes and systems for assisting ISCB conference organisers. 3. Review and update the documents whenever necessary and promote their usage for improving the procedures or meetings.	**Chair/Secretary:** Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH) **Members:** 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.com 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@ googlegroups.com	The aims are to: 1. Bring together statisticians who have a major interest in dental statistics 2. Review the statistical quality of the current dental clinical trials 3. Promote education and research on statistical methods in dentistry 4. Contribute to statistical issues in regulatory guidelines	**Chair/Secretary:** Emmanuel Lesaffre (B) **Members:** Carol Redmond (USA), Ian Needleman (UK), Maria-Jose Garcia-Zattera (Chile) Heidi Huber (USA)	 emmanuel.Lesaffre@ med.kuleuven.be ckr3@ pitt.edu I.Needleman@ eastman.ucl.ac.uk MJgarcia@ uc.cl hmrich@ pitt.edu
Education iscb-education@ googlegroups.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.	**Chair/Secretary:** Rumana Omar (UK) **Members:** Mike Campbell (UK), Nicole Close (USA), Carol Redmond (USA), Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I), Havi Murad (ISR), Elisabeth Svensson (S), Catherine Quantin (F) Jeno 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 Iscb-membership@ googlegroups.com	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	**Chair/Secretary:** Emmanuel Lesaffre (B) **Members:** 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 Iscb-national-groups@ googlegroups.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.	**Chair/Secretary:** Julia Singer (B), **Members:** Elia Biganzoli (I), Krista Fischer (EST) Ewa Kawalec (PL), Catherine Quantin (F) Norbert Victor (D), John Whitehead (UK)	julia_singer@ baxter.com elia.biganzoli@ unimi.it Krista.Fischer@ ut.ee mxkawale@ cyf-kr.edu.pl catherine.quantin@ chu-dijon.fr victor@ imbi.uni-heidelberg.de j.r.whitehead@ reading.ac.uk
Statistics in Regulatory Affairs iscb-reg-aff@ googlegroups.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.	**Chair/Secretary::** Jørgen Seldrup (F) **Members:** 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 iscb-stud-conf-awrd@ googlegroups.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.	**Chair/Secretary:** KyungMann Kim (USA) **Members:** 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

ISCB Membership Information

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

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

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

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), Jeno 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 Birkerod, 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: _____ **Please provide your email address as it will be used to send you the ISCB News in the future.**

SUBSCRIPTION: ☐ Ordinary membership of ISCB (to 31 December 2007): Euros (EUR) 40.00
(please tick only one) ☐ Full-time Student Membership of ISCB (to 31 December 2007): Euros (EUR) 20.00
(students should provide a letter from their supervisor or head of department)

Have you previously been a member of ISCB? ☐Yes ☐No

PAYMENT IS MADE BY:

Credit Card Authorisation: ☐VISA ☐VISA Electron ☐Master Card ☐Euro Card ☐JCB

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your name on credit card:	Card number to debit (16 digits):	Validation code (3 digits) (CVC/CVV) from the back of your credit card	Expiry date (MM/YY):
_____	_____	_____	_____

Cheque/Money Order:

☐ A cheque made payable in Euros – **drawn on a bank in the United Kingdom**
☐ A Money Order

Cheque / Money Order No: (if known) _____ Date sent: _____

Cheques must be made payable to the ***International Society for Clinical Biostatistics*** and returned with this form to the Permanent Office address.

Note: Non-Euro cheques, bank cheques not drawn on a U.K. bank, and cheques not made payable to ISCB will be returned.

Bank Transfer:

Please transfer direct to:
Barclays Bank plc
PO Box 69
121 Queen Street
Cardiff CF1 1SG
UK

☐
Euro Account No. 6687 4511

Bank Sort Code: 20-18-15
IBAN: GB28 BARC 2018 1566 8745 11
SWIFT/BIC: BARCGB22

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

17 - 21 August 2008	**Copenhagen, Denmark**

ISCB29
Info: Bjarne Nielsen email: bn@ cyncron.com, web: http://www.iscb2008.info

For the latest conference info, see: http://isi.cbs.nl/calendar.htm

July 4 - 6	Workshop on statistical metadata, to be held in Vienna, Austria. All workshop documentation will be made available on the meeting website (http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.07.metis.htm) as it is finalized. **Information:** InvitationLetter.pdf by the United Nations Statistical Commission, Economic Commission for Europe, Conference of European Statisticians. For more detailed information, see: RegistrationForm.doc , InformationNotice(1#).pdf
July 9 - 11	The 5th 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. **Website:** http://www.mcp-conference.org
July 16 - 20	Royal Statistical Society International Conference - Statistics & Public Policy-Making: Hope vs Reality, to be held in the University of York, U.K.. Covering a wide range of topical issues, taking a realistic view of how statistical science has had, is having, and might have more impact on how government policy is set and monitored. **Information:** Paul Gentry 020 7614 3918 **E-mail:** conference@rss.org.uk **Website:** www.rss.org.uk/rss2007
July 29 - August 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. **Website:** www.amstat.org/meetings
July 29 - August 2	The 28th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB 28) will take place in Alexandroupoli, 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. **Information:** Vana Sypsa Chair of the Local Organising Committee: Giota Touloumi Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee: Mike Kenward **E-mail:** vsipsa@cc.uoa.gr **Website:** www.iscb2007.gr
August 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 **Local Organisers:** Janet Ainley, janet.ainley@warwick.ac.uk Dave Pratt, dave.pratt@warwick.ac.uk **Website:** http://srtl.stat.auckland.ac.nz/
August 22 - 29	**International Statistical Institute, 56th Biennial Session**: 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. **Information:** ISI Permanent Office, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, P.O. Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands. **Phone:** +31–70–3375737 **Fax:** +31–70–3860025 **E-mail:** isi @cbs.nl **Website:** http://www.isi2007.com.pt/
August 30 - September 1	The IASC is organising an International Conference on Statistics for Data Mining, Learning and Knowledge Extraction, as a Satellite Conference to the ISI Biennial Session in Lisbon, Portugal. 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 **Website:** http://www.mat.ua.pt/iasc07/
September 1 - 6	*Robust and Nonparametric Statistical Inference*, to be held in Hejnice, Czech Republic. The Workshop is organized jointly by Charles University in Prague and Technical University of Liberec. Invited speakers: J. Beirlant, C. Croux, I. Gijbels, M. Hallin, A. Kagan, K. Knight, H. Oja, D. Pandaveine, H. Pavlopoulos, S. Portnoy, P.K. Sen, W. Stute, N. Veraverbeke. **Information:** Jana Jureckova, Charles University, Department of Statistics and Jaroslav Hájek Center for Theoretical and Applied Statistics, Sokolovska 83, CZ-186 75 Prague 8, Czech Republic **E-mail:** jurecko@karlin.mff.cuni.cz **Phone:** +420 221913285 **Fax:** +420 222323316 **Website:** www.fp.vslib.cz/kap/centrumJH/workshop07/
September 3 - 7	An IASC-ERS Summer School on Statistical Learning, Data Mining and Regression Tools will take place in Terra Murata (University of Naples "L'Orientale") on the island of Procida (Naples), in Italy. The Summer School is locally organised by the Second University of Naples, the University of Naples "Federico II", the University of Orientale 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. **Information:** Professor Rosaria Lombardo **E-mail:** rosaria.lombardo@unina2.it **Website:** www.economia.unina2.it/corsi_di_studio/IASC/default.html
September 10 - 14	15th European Young Statisticians Meeting, Castro Urdiales (Spain). These meetings are conferences organized every two years under the auspices of the European Regional Committee of the Bernoulli Society. The aim is to provide a scientific forum for the next generation of European researchers in probability theory and statistics. Participants are less than 30 years old or have 2 to 8 years of research experience. **Information:** Inés M. del Puerto **E-mail:** idelpuerto@unex.es **Phone:** +34 924289300 Ext.: 6820 **Fax:** +34 924 272911 **Website:** http://kolmogorov.unex.es/~idelpuerto/15thEYSM
September 12 - 15	The Pyrenees International Workshop on Statistics, Probability and Operations Research SPO'07 to be held in Jaca (Spain). A school and a workshop in the fields of Statistics, Probability and Operations Research will be held in Jaca introducing relevant topics and some of the most recent advances and prospective challenges of the fields. It will give established researchers, young specialists and graduate students the opportunity to discuss and work together. **Information:** SPO 2007 Secretary: Department of Statistical Methods, University of Zaragoza Edificio de Matemáticas, 3ª planta C/ Pedro Cerbuna, 12 50009 Zaragoza , Spain **Fax:** +34 976761115
September 23 - 26	Applied Statistics 2007 will be held in Ribno (Bled), Slovenia. The conference will provide an opportunity for researchers in statistics, data analysts, and other professionals from various statistical and related fields to come together, present their research, and learn from each other. Cross-discipline and applied paper submissions are especially welcome. **Information:** Andrej Blejec **Phone:** +386 1 423-33-88 **Fax:** +386 1 257-33-90 **E-mail:** info.AS@nib.si **Website:** http://ablejec.nib.si/AS2007
October 31 - November 1	Workshop on Calibration and Estimation in Surveys, Ottawa, Canada. This conference will focus on conceptual, technical and practical aspects of calibration and more generally estimation in surveys. Topics included will cover inference, survey sampling, generalized regression estimation, imputation variance, and small area estimation. The special invited keynote speaker will be Carl-Erik Särndal. **Information:** Eric Rancourt, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6 (613) 951-5046 **E-mail:** eric.rancourt@statcan.ca
November 12 - 13	First Arab Statistical Conference, to be held in Doha, Qatar. Theme: "No Development without Statistics". The objective of the conference is to unite the Arab Statisticians to make clear the importance of statistical work and the leading role of National Statistical Organizations in the process of development. For more information about the themes to be discussed during the conference and how to participate, please visit the conference webpage: **Website:** http://www.aitrs.org/english/fasc/index.htm
November 18 - 20	Colloque International *MOAD'4*: Méthodes et Outils d'Aide à la Décision, University of Bejaia, Algeria. Ce colloque couvre tous les aspects (mathématiques; techniques économiques, opérationnels) des Méthodes et Outils d'Aide à la décision. Son principal objectif est de confronter les différentes disciplines s'occupant de la décision. **Information:** Fazia Aoudia **Phone:** 213 34 21 08 00 **Fax:** 213 34 21 51 88 **E-mail:** moad2007.bejaia@yahoo.fr **Website:** http://www.moad04.lamos.org