



International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

News

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Editor: David W. Warne

Executive Committee 2009-10

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 2009

Editorial

The 2008 conference in Copenhagen, Denmark was a huge success (570 people) and the Society is very grateful for the work done by the SPC and LOC Chairs, Philip Hougaard and Bjarne Nielsen/Bodin.

In 2009, the conference will take place in Prague in the Czech Republic and there's an update from Zdenek Valenta in this News: it looks very well organised with many exciting sessions planned... You too can contribute to it being a great success by submitting an abstract and attending the 30th Anniversary meeting.

Our biennial elections were held recently and you can see the new formation of the ExCom. Thanks to John Whitehead for collecting nominations and Vana Sypsa and Claus Bay for running the election. We have also revised the Constitution: the membership (917) was asked to approve the draft new Constitution and it was approved without any votes against and only 4 suggestions for improvement.

Thanks to the contributors to this News: Bjarne Bodin, Rita Schou, Christoph Gerlinger, Julia Singer, KyungMann Kim, Harbajan Chadha-Boreham, Rumana Omar, Emmanuel Lesaffre, Vana Sypsa, Zdenek Valenta, Ewa Kawalec, Cornelia Enachescu, Jenő Reiczgel, Sylvain Larroque and the 6 book reviewers.

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 Student Conf. Awards: KyungMann Kim (USA)
 Vaccines: Andrew Dunning (USA)

Index

ISCB Membership.....	2	Hungarian National Group Report.....	19
ISCB President's Finale.....	3	Book Review by Christos Nakas (Greece).....	20
Elections for the ExCom and New Constitution: Results.....	3	Book Review by Victor Moreno (Spain).....	20
ISCB29 Copenhagen 2008: AGM Report.....	4	Statistics in Regulatory Affairs SC Update.....	21
Book Review by Siem Heisterkamp (Netherlands).....	8	Education SC Update.....	21
ISCB Membership – 1992-2008.....	8	Book Review by Harry Southworth (UK).....	22
ISCB30: Prague, Czech Republic: Update.....	9	Book Review by Dimitris Karlis (Greece).....	22
Book Review by Oke Gerke (Denmark).....	10	ISCB29 President's Invited Speaker: Niels Keiding.....	23
ISCB29 Copenhagen: Thank You!.....	10	ISCB29 President's Conference Dinner Speech.....	24
ISCB 30th Anniversary: Call for Contributions.....	11	ISCB GENERAL INFORMATION.....	25
ISCB30 Prague 2009: Conference Awards for Scientists (CAS).....	11	Advertising Rates.....	25
ISCB30 Prague 2009: Student Conference Awards (SCA).....	11	Society's Aims.....	25
Books for Review by Sylvain Larroque.....	12	Changes of Address or Email.....	25
Romanian National Group Report.....	14	Information on Submitting Articles.....	25
Advert: MPS, Lancaster (UK).....	15	ISCB Office and Executive Committee: Contact Details.....	26
History of ISCB – An Update.....	15	ISCB Membership and Googlegroups Emailing Lists.....	27
Advert: Wiley.....	18	ISCB Subcommittees: Contact Details.....	28
Czech National Group: Update.....	19	ISCB Membership Information.....	30
Polish National Group Report.....	19	ISCB Membership Subscription.....	31
		Calendar.....	32

ISCB Membership

Welcome to the 387 new members who joined ISCB by attending ISCB29 in Copenhagen.

*=host of	Conference	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	Nov 06	Nov 07	May 08	Dec 08
	Total	261	596	715	698	725	702	685	729	818	797	837	825	756	758	620	808	800	413	921
	# Countries	23	32	32	31	33	34	37	37	41	40	45	41	40	38	39	40	41	34	42
1.	Denmark	4	58*	38	31	30	32	26	35	38	39	36	46	41	37	37	40	34	24*	154*
2.	UK	50	90	176*	120	144	121	128	169*	135	151	153	141	190*	140	109	133	117	46	114
3.	USA	18	45	40	39	41	40	79*	66	76	77	89	78	75	57	51	67	62	29	74
4.	Poland [NatGrp]		11	11	24	24	30	21	19	26	34	37	41	41	43	40	49	54	57	62
5.	Germany	30	67	75	84	71	78	72	70	186*	90	87	77	61	57	51	73	48	26	59
6.	France	30	52	62	50	73	67	52	52	49	53	37	93*	31	41	30	57	41	18	49
7.	Hungary [NatGrp]	1	21	17	18	19	25*	27	29	29	33	34	41	48	42	38*	50	44	43	43
8.	Netherlands	14*	30	38	33	36	29	31	39	35	33	38	39	33	87*	35	44	41	13	39
9.	Belgium	13	22	27	30	30	32	35	29	25	33	36	33	23	27	24	23	32	17	33
10.	Romania [NatGrp]						2			4	1	1	1	19	21	30	28	30	30	31
11.	Czech. Rep. [NatGrp]			1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	17	36	28	28
12.	Sweden	23	51	53	54	58	64	51	45	38	44	88*	50	36	34	24	23	19	10	27
13.	Switzerland	14	25	22	80*	33	29	24	25	23	18	23	26	22	23	23	55*	28	12	26
14.	Canada	6	12	14	14	11	13	15	14	9	9	10	14	16	8	12	12	19	9	22
15.	Italy	16	33	37	32	32	33	26	33	26	63*	29	25	15	25	15	23	24	6	20
16.	Japan	2	6	7	5	7	4	10	13	20	12	11	10	10	10	17	17	27	5	20
17.	Norway	13	18	25	22	12	18	10	10	11	10	16	16	12	14	12	13	12	5	19
18.	Austria	4	9	11	13	11	16	13	11	15	18	15	13	16	17	15	14	16	5	17
19.	Australia	6	9	11	6	9	8	11	9	10	12	8	9	14	8	6	11	11	5	10
20.	Finland	2	7	7	9	9	9	7	5	10	9	18	11	7	11	10	6	8	5	8
21.	Turkey		1	1						1				1	2	2	3	4		7
22.	Portugal	1	3	5	2	2	2	2	5	5	3	4	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	6
23.	South Korea					3		1						1				1		6
24.	Spain	10	12	18	12	46*	23	14	16	12	11	11	8	7	15	5	9	8	2	5
25.	Slovenia		1	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	3	4	5	2	5
26.	New Zealand		1		1		2	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	2	1	5
27.	Greece		1	1	1				1	1	3	1	6	1	2	2	3	50*	2	5
28.	India		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	4
29.	Singapore							3	6	4	5	8	5	7	2	4	6	2		4
30.	Taiwan										1	1	1	1	1	1				3
31.	Slovakia												1			1	2	2	2	2
32.	South Africa		1	4	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	2
33.	Israel	1	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	10	13	10	7	8	3	4	2	1	2
34.	Ireland	1	2	3	4	3	4	4	2	3	2	3		1	1					2
35.	Iran					1	1						1	1	4	1	3	5	1	1
36.	Malaysia					2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	1
37.	Russia					1	3	3	3	2	2	1	4	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
38.	Brazil					2						1							1	1
39.	Cuba								2	2	2	2	2		2	1		1	1	1
40.	Sri Lanka																1	1		1
41.	Bangladesh																			1
42.	Mexico						1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1			1
43.	Luxembourg																		1	
44.	Estonia											2		1		1	1	1		
45.	United Arab Emirates															1		1		
46.	Chile																	1		
47.	Thailand		1	1		1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2				3			
48.	Saudi Arabia											1					1			
49.	Indonesia						1										1			
50.	Malawi												1	1	1					
51.	Colombia							1	1		1			1						
52.	China		1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2							
53.	Croatia									1	1		1							
54.	Gambia												1							
55.	Lithuania											2								
56.	Argentina											1								
57.	Kuwait	1										1								
58.	Sudan											1								
59.	Ukraine									1		1								
60.	Egypt											1								
61.	Pakistan								1	1	1									
62.	Philippines									1										
63.	Zimbabwe				1															
64.	Kenya		1	1																
65.	Oman	1																		

ISCB President's Finale

From Emmanuel Lesaffre

Dear Members of the Society,

My term as President is approaching its end quickly now. I can look back on two enjoyable and successful Society years. I have to admit that with the quarterly teleconferences and the annual meetings, I had at times quite a lot of work with Society's matters. But, it was done with pleasure and observing that the Society is again flourishing was a great reward.

I have not much more to add than what I have already said at the Copenhagen meeting and you will find my address to the Society at this year's annual meeting elsewhere in the Newsletter. But, I do find it important to thank the Officers for their professional support and their friendship and wish the new team of Officers and members of the Executive Committee as much pleasure in their duties for the Society as I had. I would also like to thank the organizers of the two annual meetings (Alexandroupolis and Copenhagen) which happened during my term. Partly due to their efforts, the Society is again a financially sound society.

Thanks finally to all ISCB members for their continuing support to our Society, especially the future organizers of our annual meetings.

Enjoy the Christmas and New Year period and I hope to meet you all again in Prague next year.

Elections for the ExCom and New Constitution: Results

From Vana Sypsa, Chair of the Ballot Committee, and Emmanuel Lesaffre, President

We can now report on the election of the members of the Executive Committee by a postal ballot that ended on 5 November 2008.

The chair of Nominations Committee, John Whitehead, received 11 nominations for the 8 vacant positions in the Executive Committee. Vana Sypsa headed the Ballot Committee and was helped by Rita Schou and Claus Bay. There were 178 returned ballot forms. The following ISCB members (listed in alphabetical order) were elected to serve in the years 2009 and 2010:

- Lucinda Billingham (UK) [112 votes]
- Krisztina Boda (Hungary) [94 votes]
- Adriano Decarli (Italy) [80 votes]
- Lutz Edler (Germany) [109 votes]
- KyungMann Kim (US) [101 votes]
- Ulrich Mansmann (Germany) [96 votes]
- Jean-Christophe Thalabard (France) [58 votes]
- Giota Touloumi (Greece) [94 votes].

Congratulations to all of them. The Society and especially the Officers really appreciate their commitment to the Society.

Not elected: Nicole Close (USA) [58], Jean-Pierre Daurès (France) [45], Gerd Kallischnigg (Switzerland) [38].

There was a tie for the last post between Jean-Christophe Thalabard and Nicole Close.

According to the article 15.11 of the Constitution, "A tie for the last post shall be broken randomly by the Ballot Committee". By random selection, Jean-Christophe Thalabard was elected.

Furthermore, as of 1 January 2009 Norbert Victor will be our new President, Harbajan Chadha-Boreham will become the Vice-President, Koos Zwinderman will serve a second term as Treasurer and David W. Warne will be our new Secretary. Finally, Emmanuel Lesaffre will serve for one year as Past-President.

Concerning the proposed changes in the Society's Constitution, there were 169 forms with

- 126 votes "For",
- 0 votes "Against" and
- 43 votes "Abstain"
- (9 ballot forms had no indication).

According to the article 19.01 of the Constitution indicating a majority vote of at least two-thirds of those voting, and whose votes are valid, the proposed changes in the Constitution have been approved by the Society's membership.

The new Constitution may be found on www.iscb.info.

From Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (ISCB ExCom Secretary)

Wednesday 20 August 2008

The meeting started at 12.00. The agenda of the meeting was:

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

1. President's Report (Emmanuel Lesaffre)

Emmanuel Lesaffre welcomed the participants to the AGM. He thanked Bjarne Bodin (previously called Nielsen and who has married recently), Rita Schou and the whole of Local Organising Committee for their excellent work in making the Copenhagen meeting a "Gold Medal" success. The President thanked Philip Hougaard (Chair) and rest of the Scientific Programme Committee for the extensive and exciting programme: 4 pre-conference courses, 6 invited sessions, 3 mini-symposia, almost 30 contributed sessions and more than 100 posters. This year's President's Invited Speaker, Niels Keiding, is quite a logical choice both from a geographical, as well from a scientific point of view. (*Note: The President's Invited Speaker's speech is presented in this Newsletter*). The Copenhagen meeting is attended by about 570 participants. Not only the location of Copenhagen gets credit for this, also the links of the local organisers with the pharmaceutical industry proved to be beneficial. Hence, for a third year in a row our Treasurer can feel relaxed.

Over many years our Society has been assisted in an efficient and enjoyable manner by the Permanent Office located in Copenhagen, notably by Rita Schou. While we have attempted to meet with Rita at one of the past annual meetings, our attempts have been unsuccessful. We now have the honour of seeing Rita at this meeting. (*The President presented Rita with a bouquet on flowers and thanked her for serving the ISCB over many years*).

The last two annual meetings have been a great success scientifically, socially and financially. Last year's meeting in Alexandroupolis was initially thought by some of us as somewhat risky, because of the high temperatures in Greece at that time of the year and the rather remote location of Alexandroupolis. Luckily, not all statisticians are good predictors since the meeting was no doubt very successful in all ways, thanks to efforts of Vana Sypsa and Giota Touloumi. A word of thanks goes also to the Scientific Committee and all those who helped in the refereeing process to establish the special issue in Statistics in Medicine pertaining to the 28th Annual Meeting.

Our subcommittees take care of particular tasks and many are indispensable for the Society. The chairs of the different subcommittees will report in detail about their activities in the past year, nevertheless I would like to comment on some these activities below. The subcommittee on Communications ceased to exist after more than a decade and merged with the Subcommittee on Membership. I would like to emphasize that this Subcommittee has been important to the Society and I would like to thank all of those who served on this Subcommittee over the past years, especially David Warne. The Subcommittee on National Groups selected 6 winning entries, while the Subcommittee on Student Awards selected four winners. Both subcommittees provide important publicity to the Society. This year we see the birth of a new Subcommittee on Vaccines chaired by Andrew Dunning and initiated following a session at Alexandroupolis organised by Jorgen Seldrup. You will hear more about the planned activities of this subcommittee during this meeting.

While last year I hesitated to be too optimistic, I dare to say now that the future of our Society looks again bright. With a sound (close to our target) financial budget, with three successful meetings in a row, with a membership of over 800, with promising annual meetings in the coming years: 2009 (Prague), 2010 (Montpellier), 2011 (likely Ottawa), etc. ... there is no reason to be pessimistic about our future. Of course, we still need to continue spreading the message, but we are on the good track.

I have the feeling that I have just started my Presidency and the end is already in sight. Although I do not have the impression that I could do much for the Society in this short period, I do believe that, together with the Officers, the ExCom and the Subcommittee members, we made the Society more prosperous. But the last year has been quite tough for me, combining two positions (taking up a new position in Erasmus MC, Rotterdam and combining it with an existing position in Leuven) with the task of President. Nevertheless, I enjoyed this period and I wish the next President: Norbert Victor all the best for the next two years.

2. Treasurer's report (Koos Zwinderman)

At the AGM Koos Zwinderman presented the Alexandroupolis accounts and the 2007-Financial Report, plus the figures showing the ISCB equity and membership until December 2007. All these reports appeared in the June 2008 Newsletter and are not included here. The Auditors report of the 2007 Financial accounts, that was received after the June 2008 Newsletter, was also presented at the AGM. The abovementioned reports and the budget shown below were also presented at the Executive Committee Meeting (ExCom) on 17th August and were accepted by the ExCom. The reports and the budget were approved unanimously at the AGM.

Koos Zwinderman thanked Vana Sypsa and Giota Touloumi, last year's conference organisers, for the largest surplus ever for an ISCB conference (nearly 42,500 €). The 2007-surplus from Alexandroupolis, plus the 2006-surplus from Geneva have contributed to the general positive trend since 2001, so that the ISCB equity has improved to nearly 121,000 €. This is a very promising development towards achieving our goal to have equity of about 150,000 €. Furthermore, Koos gave the assurance that we have no risky investments.

The total increase of 3,000 € in 2009 budget is planned to be covered by the expected conference surplus from the Prague meeting. The increase of 2,000 € requested by the ISCB permanent Office had been accepted by the ExCom, because the Office had not increased the charges for several years and the requested increase appeared very reasonable. The 1,000 € increase was also approved by the ExCom in order to publicise the work of ISCB at the Sister Societies, thus encourage new members to join the ISCB.

ISCB Budget 2009

INCOME	2009	2008	2007 result
membership fees	20,000	20,000	21,380
Conference surplus	20,000	17,000	42,455
Advertising + Interest	5,000	5,000	4,451
TOTAL	45,000	42,000	68,286
EXPENSES			
Office	15,000	13,000	13,328
Officers & ExCom	7,000	7,000	6,758
Awards	8,000	8,000	8,701
Pres. Invited Speaker + representation at Sister Societies	3,000	2,000	0
Workshops	2,000	2,000	744
Newsletter	7,000	7,000	8043
Miscellaneous	3,000	3,000	3428
TOTAL	45,000	42,000	41,002

3. Subcommittee reports & motions for continuation:

The seven ISCB Subcommittee (SC) Chairs had reported on their activities at the ExCom meeting. The Terms of Reference and list of members contained in the Annual Reports of the SCs can be found at the end of this Newsletter. The SC Chairs presented their reports briefly at the AGM, as follows, and the motions for continuation of each Subcommittee were approved by the ISCB participants at the AGM:

3.1 Statistics in Regulatory Affairs (Jorgen Seldrup)

A Subcommittee meeting was held during the Annual Meeting in Alexandroupolis, Greece and was attended by three representatives of the Subcommittee: Jorgen Seldrup, Harbajan Chadha-Boreham and Anna Petroccione. Once again the issue of the Sub-committee commenting on 'non-statistical' guidelines / therapeutic specific guidelines was discussed. Acknowledging that in general the subcommittee members, and probably the ISCB membership in general do not have the expertise necessary to comment on such guidance (and therefore commenting would require seeking 'external' advice which would be hard to justify as an ISCB view), we agreed not to pursue this concept further.

This has been a very quiet year with no regulatory documents regarding essentially statistical issues have been issued. In October we did become aware of a document, an appendix to an existing guidance from the EMEA on evaluation of anticancer medicinal products in man. However, the 'end of consultation (deadline for comments)' (31 January 2007) had already passed. The revised document had not been issued by the date of this report. The document has some interesting comments on data analysis (see www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/human/ewp/26757506en.pdf).

The CHMP "Reflection paper on the Methodological Issues in Confirmatory Clinical Trials with Flexible Design and Analysis Plan" (CHMP/EWP/2459/02) on which the Sub-committee had commented was adopted by the CHMP on 18 October 2007 under the new title "Reflection paper on methodological issues in confirmatory clinical trials planned with an adaptive design". (www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/human/ewp/245902_enadopted.pdf).

We understand that the FDA in furthering the 'Critical Path Initiative' will be issuing their guidance on 'adaptive design' for consultation later this year. Further guidances on 'missing data' and 'non-inferiority' are also expected in the near future. So, it looks like the year ahead will easily compensate for the past less exciting year.

After several years as Chair of the Statistics in Regulatory SC, Jorgen Seldrup wished to retire from this position. The future chairmanship of the Sub-committee had been discussed by the present Chair, Jorgen Seldrup, and it was agreed to approach Christoph Gerlinger to take over the Chair. Christoph has agreed to chair the Sub-committee after the AGM of 2008.

Jorgen Seldrup thanked all sub-committee members for their support over the years.

The President expressed his gratitude to Jorgen Seldrup for his long and dedicated services in fulfilling a very important role of the ISCB by contributing to issues related to Regulatory Affairs. (*Note: Jorgen Seldrup was conferred ISCB Honorary Membership last year*)

3.2 National Groups (Julia Singer)

This year there was a change in the terms of reference to apply for the *Conference Awards for Scientists*: not only the abstract but the whole poster (or presentation) had to be submitted. By this change it was hoped that the quality of submissions can be better assessed. The quality of submission was indeed higher this year.

There were 8 applications from 7 countries (Bangladesh, Hungary, India, Mexico, Poland, Romania and Sri Lanka). The award was granted for 6 abstracts. The National Groups Subcommittee voted to select the following 6 winning entries (in alphabetic order): Felix Almendra-Arao (Mexico), Atanu Biswas (India), Nashid Kamal (Bangladesh), Gabriella Magyar (Hungary), Roshini Sooriyarachchi (Sri Lanka), Krystyna Szafranec (Poland).

The Awards were presented to the winners by Julia Singer during the AGM.

3.3 Education (Rumana Omar)

The sub-committee met during the ISCB conference at Alexandroupolis in 2007. It was decided in that meeting that that there should be a section on the ISCB website devoted to education. This section should include a list of past courses offered through the ISCB in the past 8 years (to facilitate statistically developing countries to select a course that may be sponsored by the ISCB), and a write-up on the career of a biostatistician with links to relevant websites. An education section has been created for the website and the write up on a biostatistician's career is now included in this section. Rumana Omar has constructed a list of courses offered by the ISCB over the last decade (with help from David Warne) and has sent it to Bjarne Nielsen to host it on the website.

An ISCB sponsored course on Cluster Randomised Trials was conducted in Isfahan in April 2008. However, there were some problems as the BMI airlines did not inform Mike Campbell and Rumana Omar (course lecturers) about the change in their flight schedule, which resulted in their missing the flight. Therefore, half a day worth of the course time was lost due to BMI's inefficiency. However, the course was well received and the summary of the course feedback was attached to the Annual Report to the ExCom. An ISCB member from Sri Lanka has requested for a pdf version of the course notes. It has been decided that the earnings of £40 from this transaction will be used to contribute to the Iran course expenses.

Rumana Omar also reported on the envisaged activities: Proposal from Poland for a course on mixed effects models is being considered. Possibility of developing course/workshop/symposium in collaboration with institutions in statistically developed countries, perhaps piloting in France. Sub-committee proposes a session for future meetings on: *Challenges faced by biostatisticians when working with medical researchers* (aim to propagate the importance of Biostatistics and educate the career young biostatisticians).

During the AGM a question was raised from the floor requesting details of the process to be followed by people who are interested in running a course through the Education SC. Rumana Omar explained that there are written Guidelines in place for running such courses and the process involves approval of a course proposal by the ExCom Officers. (*Note: The Guidelines for organising courses are available on the ISCB website*)

3.4 Student Conference Awards (KyungMann Kim)

This year there were twelve Student Conference Award (SCA) applications, five students from UK, two each from Belgium and US, and one student each from Cameroon, India and Germany. Four students were selected by the SCA subcommittee based on the submitted abstract and the summary of the paper. Besides the SCA subcommittee members, Programme Chair, Phillip Hougaard, 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 contributions. Only three awardees required support for meeting participation.

This year's Student Conference Awardees are: Nadine Grambauer (Germany), Thomas Hamborg (UK), Peter Kimani (UK) and Liyuan Ma (USA).

Number of Entries: The number of applications in 2008 was the same as in 2007. As in the past, the closing date was extended by almost two weeks, as with the closing date for the contributed paper abstracts. We advertised as usual in the ISCB and ALLSTAT emails lists, which we would expect to reach a large number of students and their supervisors.

The standard and content of this year's submissions was not very different from last year and was on the whole good. There were a couple of somewhat weak papers and some papers also lacked a good motivating example or application. We need to be more explicit in emphasizing the importance of good application in the announcement of the competition.

Rules of submission: The handling of the applications as electronic files went smoothly. This was the second year that a hard copy was not required, except for the letter from the student's advisor. These letters were received by post, fax or scanned electronic files, and did not present any problem. We would like to propose that the letters be also submitted via email as a PDF file.

By timely communication with the scientific programme committee, the winning papers have been included in the contributed sessions, and identified in the programme as SCA winners.

The Student Awards were presented to the winners by Kyungmann Kim during the AGM.

3.5 Conference Organising (Harbajan Chadha-Boreham)

The Conference Organising Subcommittee was formed in the 2003 and has maintained full membership (10 people) since the beginning. The future conference organisers also participate in the Annual SC meetings. The turnover of membership is steady, as past members retire from the SC to allow future conference organisers to join. Last year Norbert Victor retired and Zdenek Valenta joined the SC. The fifth annual meeting of the subcommittee was at ISCB28 in Alexandroupolis and the Minutes were circulated.

The Conference Organising Guidelines continue to undergo minor changes. The following changes were implemented:

Following Tim Ramsay's (*Chair of Local Organising Committee, 2011 ISCB Ottawa*) request for information on past conference organisers, a detailed document was prepared by David Warne and it has been included as 'Past Conferences History' section in the Conference Organising Guidelines.

The roles of Scientific Programme Committee members and session chairs for refereeing the special SIM issue have been clarified in the Conference Organising Guidelines (by Harbajan and Emmanuel).

The Conference Organising Guidelines were circulated to future organisers (Prague, Montpellier and Ottawa)

Value Added Tax position relating to the Prague ISCB Conference had been presented by Zdenek Valenta in Alexandroupolis. The actions necessary for 'transference of domicile rights for conference organising activities' have been performed with the help of Koos Zwinderman and Bjarne

Bodin. The ISCB Permanent Office was involved regarding the Danish Law that applies to the ISCB income.

Since last year's meeting in Alexandroupolis, the conference organisers obtain help from David Warne for coordinating the SC and some other meetings.

At the ExCom meeting in Copenhagen, it was decided to revise the financial section of the Guidelines in order to simplify the budget calculations for future conference organisers. It was also decided to post up the Financial Reports of the past conferences on the ISCB restricted web area of the Conference Organising SC.

3.6 ISCB Membership (Emmanuel Lesaffre)

The Membership subcommittee meeting was held during ISCB28 Conference last year. The following members were present: Norbert Victor, Emmanuel Lesaffre, John Whitehead, Harbajan Chadha-Boreham, Toshiro Tango, and KyungMann Kim serving as secretary.

Emmanuel mentioned the agreement with other societies of establishing web links between ISCB and their societies, particularly those in Asian region, and noted a case of benefit of such linking with the Japanese Biometric Society resulting in 19 Conference participants from Japan. He also noted that a reasonable progress had been made with statistical societies, but not much progress with medical and epidemiological societies.

As an attempt to increase the membership, a suggestion was made by Norbert about establishing a tie with professional societies focused on cost effectiveness and outcomes evaluation in health care.

A question was brought up by KyungMann about the relationship between ISCB and the journal, *Statistics in Medicine*. It was noted that the founding of ISCB and the launching of *Statistics in Medicine* in 1979 was a coincidence and that there is no formal relationship, except for the discount in the subscription price for *Statistics in Medicine* for the ISCB members. A possibility of publishing the abstracts of the conference in *Statistics in Medicine* as a supplement, but it was recognized that it was entirely up to Wiley and Editors of *Statistics in Medicine*. As ISCB does not have its own journal and *Statistics in Medicine* is the closest to it to ISCB, it was recommended that ISCB officers explore ways to take advantage of ISCB's relationship with *Statistics in Medicine* in order to increase the ISCB's visibility, including advertising the ISCB Conference in *Statistics in Medicine*.

With the awareness of the Asian statistical communities about ISCB, it was noted that there may be a need to discuss the concept of national groups with the reduced membership fee structure for certain countries in the region.

Also in order to ensure infusion of younger generation of clinical biostatisticians, it was proposed that the past applicants and winners of the Student Conference Awards be identified through the ISCB permanent office and find out about their membership status. In addition, it was recommended that ISCB extends a special invitation to those who are no longer ISCB members to rejoin ISCB.

Again it was suggested that a consideration is given of the price break in conference dinner and holding a reception for the student participants by the ISCB president. Emmanuel agreed to pursue this with the ISCB29 Local Organizing Committee as well as the Executive Committee.

Finally, at the AGM on August 1 2007, it was decided that the Subcommittee on Communications will cease to exist and interested members of that former subcommittee will join the Subcommittee on Membership. Consequently, the terms-of-reference was changed. (*Note: The revised Terms of reference can be found at the end of this Newsletter*)

3.7 Vaccines (Andrew J. Dunning)

Following a session on the statistics of vaccines research at ISCB 2007, a discussion developed on how statisticians working in vaccines could share questions of common interest. The discussion continued by email following the conference and was expanded to include approximately 25 statisticians. In October, the decision was reached to ask the Society to form a Vaccines Sub-Committee, and the proposed initial members held their first meeting in January 2008. The sub-committee was approved by the President and Officers in March 2008. The committee has rapidly grown to its full size of 10 members. It is hoped the committee will provide a focal point for statisticians worldwide working in vaccines research.

In 2008, the committee has: Organized a mini-symposium "Statistics in Vaccines Research" in connection with the Copenhagen conference, with contributors from Harvard University, GlaxoSmithKline, US Food and Drug Administration, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Sanofi Pasteur; Assembled a mailing list of 250 statisticians working in vaccines research, to publicize the mini-symposium and to disseminate items of interest to vaccine statisticians; the committee is actively seeking to include vaccine statisticians beyond Europe and North America; Adopted guidelines covering mailing list use; Sent out two mailings, announcing the formation of the committee and disseminating news of interest to vaccine statisticians; Submitted a session proposal "Statistical Advances for the Evaluation of Childhood Vaccines" for the Paediatric Academic Societies 2009 conference in May 2009; Assembled information on vaccines sessions at other statistical conferences for dissemination through the mailing list.

Initiatives presently under discussion are: A possibly extended mini-symposium in connection with ISCB 2009; Promoting other statistics sessions at non-statistical vaccines conferences; Publicizing and promoting vaccines sessions at other statistical conferences; Disseminating information via the mailing list on recently published papers related to the statistics of vaccines research; Establishing web pages to provide information on the mini symposium, upcoming conference sessions of interest to vaccine statisticians, an archive of recently published research on vaccines statistics, and possibly a discussion forum.

The President thanked Andrew Dunning and members of the Vaccines SC for establishing the new SC and congratulated then on astonishing achievements within the first year.

4. Future ISCB meetings**ISCB30 (2009) Prague, Czech Republic**

Zdenek Valenta, Chair of the Local Organising Committee, presented the well advanced arrangements of the Prague ISCB Conference to be held from 23rd to 27th August 2009 at the campus of University of Economics. The material that was presented at the AGM (including the Scientific and Social Programme, plus information about Sponsorship and scenic e-pictures of Prague) can be found on the ISCB30 website (www.iscb2009.info) that is linked to the ISCB Homepage. Prague is easy to reach and enjoys good weather in the summer. Zdenek Valenta cordially invited the members to "the golden city of hundred spires" for the ISCB conference in Prague, which will also host the ISCB 30 year celebrations.

ISCB31 (2010) Montpellier, France

Nicolas Molinari briefly presented the plans for the 2010 in Montpellier, which is located in the south of France on the Mediterranean sea. Montpellier is an attractive city and enjoys very high temperatures. The meeting will be held within the bounds of the city in a very large modern complex, which also has an old castle. The Local Organising Committee of ten members is already in place, the professional Conference Organising Agency has been engaged and the Chairperson of the Scientific Programme has been selected. The conference dates are 29 August to 02 September 2010.

ISCB32 (2011) Ottawa, Canada

Tim Ramsay, Chair of the Local Organising Committee for the 2011 meeting in Ottawa encouraged people to think about the wonderful opportunity to visit the capital of Canada. It is an interesting place: one can visit museums, participate in unusual sports, go hiking and maybe meet a bear!). There are great restaurants. Ottawa may be expensive to reach but once there, the Europeans find it very cheap. People go away with big bags full of shopping!

5. Nominations (Emmanuel Lesaffre and John Whitehead)

Emmanuel Lesaffre acknowledged and thanked the ExCom for their services to the Society:

The second and last year of my Presidency is approaching fast now and occurs right at the time that I have the impression to master the job. Nevertheless, I enjoyed my term especially the interaction and collaboration with the many members of the Society. I would like to thank now a few members in particular.

First of all, I wish to thank Harbajan for serving as Secretary the last four years. Harbajan succeeded me as Secretary and optimized the changes that I started in my term. She professionalized the minutes of the ExCom, the AGM and the minutes of our quarterly teleconferences. No doubt of all tasks the Officers are supposed to perform, the job of Secretary has become the most demanding. I am therefore sad to see Harbajan end as Secretary, but I am sure that she will serve the Society in many other ways in the future.

Thanks also to Koos who is ending his second year as Treasurer. Koos has a clear view on how the finances of our Society should be run. Each proposal that costs money to the Society is scrutinized by him. Indeed, one of his major tasks is to achieve the aimed financial equity as soon as possible. This financial policy, together with the past two successful ISCB meetings, rendered the Society's finances again healthy. I am, therefore, more than happy that he is willing to stand a second term as Treasurer.

Many thanks to all members of the ExCom for their excellent support to our Society in so many ways, especially, to Rumana Omar, Catherine Quantin, Jeno Reiczigel, Marie Reilly, Martin Schumacher and Vana Sypsa whose 2nd term is ending this year.

Thus, next year the ExCom will change in composition and several nominations are needed. Therefore, please nominate your favourite candidate or encourage your ISCB friends to do so and send the nomination to John Whitehead.

David Warne has again been active in the past year, not only as our Newsletter editor but also as the driving force to amend the Society's Constitution. We thank David Warne for his valuable contributions the Society.

John Whitehead, the Nominations Officer, presented the report that appeared in the June 2008 Newsletter, as follows:

From January of 2009 the ExCom will change in composition and nominations are needed for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and eight ordinary ExCom positions. The Vice-President, Norbert Victor, will become the President for two years and Emmanuel Lesaffre becomes the Past President for one year. The Secretary (Harbajan Chadha-Boreham) ends her second term and is not eligible to stand as Secretary. The Treasurer, Koos Zwinderman, ends his first term and is eligible to stand for Treasurer for another term. Only two of the eight ordinary members come to the end of their first term, Adriano Decarli and Kyungmann Kim, and they can stand for another term as ordinary members. The other six ordinary members come to the end of their second term and are not eligible to continue as ordinary members. The nomination forms can be collected at the Conference Reception desk and completed forms can be handed to me. They can also be downloaded from the ISCB website. The closing date for nominations is end of August, 2008.

ISCB29 Copenhagen 2008: AGM Report (continued)

6. Any other business

Constitution: Emmanuel Lesaffre reported that last year David Warne had proposed the ExCom to update the Constitution to reflect better the current customs of our Society. This year he together with Emmanuel and Harbajan reflected on the necessary changes of the Constitution, sent the proposed changes to all ISCB members and asked for their input. Thanks to all those who reacted. The final amendments will be installed on the web. David Warne went on to explain that the ExCom had agreed to the changes. The two key changes will allow us to get away from the postal ballot and will remove the personal legal liability; instead, the Society as a whole will become responsible for any inadvertent events (e.g. financial bankruptcy). The ISCB members will be asked for approval of the revised Constitution by postal ballot at the same time as the ExCom elections. A Two-thirds majority vote is needed to pass the revised Constitution.

Possible (Clinical) Epidemiology Subcommittee: Emmanuel Lesaffre said that he had sent out an email to the ISCB members asking about their interest in setting up a Clinical

Epidemiology Subcommittee within the Society. About 25 members had replied and some of them were present in Copenhagen. These members and any other interested members were invited to attend a preliminary meeting at the Copenhagen ISCB venue to discuss this topic.

The 30th ISCB Anniversary Celebrations: Emmanuel Lesaffre reminded that at last years AGM in Alexandroupolis, Marc Buyse had initiated the idea of 30-year celebrations at the Prague meeting in 2009. This idea was discussed during the year with Marc Buyse and Maria Grazia Valsecchi. It has been re-discussed in Copenhagen and an attractive proposal is to set up an exhibition of photos and programmes from the past to trace the Society's history. Articles from those present at the first meeting would also be very welcome. The ISCB members are invited to contribute with photos, conference programmes and articles from all the conferences for the 30th year celebrations,

The AGM closed at 13.30. It was attended by seventy-six members.

Book Review by Siem Heisterkamp (Netherlands)

Marc Aerts, Helena Geys, Geert Molenberghs and Louise M. Ryan	Topics in Modelling of Clustered Data	Chapman & Hall/CRC (2002) 1-58488-185-2
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The label monograph is too modest for this book, as the topic Clustered Data is quite wide. This book covers indeed many aspects of this topic, both practically and theoretically.

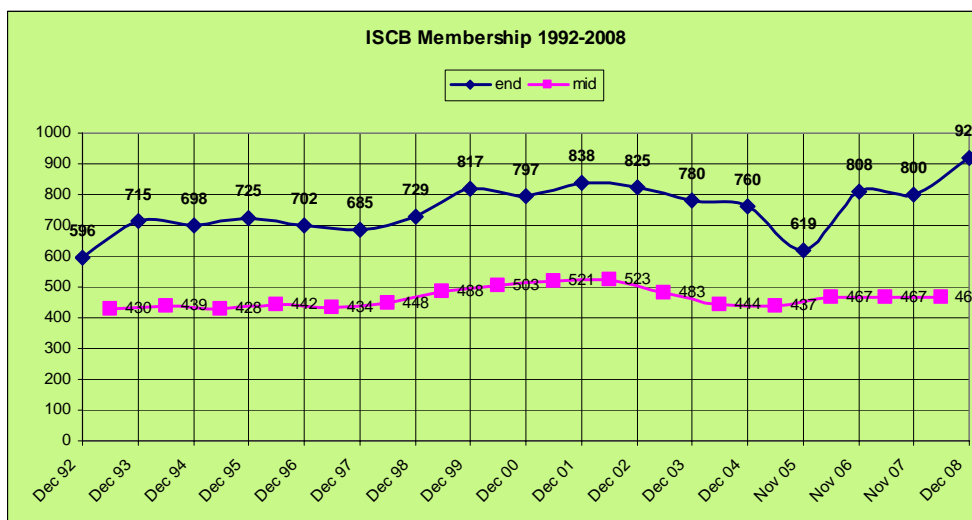
In each chapter, different aspects of the subject are treated and can be read separately. The unifying concept is the use of motivating examples, which are elaborately described in a separate chapter. The examples again cover a wide range from toxicological studies to health surveys and health monitoring of a cohort. A chapter on issues in modelling clustered data gives a broad description of the topic and is accessible for the non-technical reader. This brings us to the nice organization of the book: a reading guide in the introduction suggest the different type of readers; those who want a practical guide to tackle a concrete problem which fits into one of the examples, the technical readers who are interested in the background of estimation and inference and those which are concerned with the concepts of modelling of clustered data.

The book is well written, and although there are many contributing authors there is no unnecessary overlap between the chapters. The chapters on inference and modelling pay attention to the normal distributed variables but specifically also to the discrete distributions. A special chapter is concerned with combined continuous and discrete outcomes, especially bivariate outcomes. The advantages and disadvantages of marginal and conditional modelling are well explained and the technicalities are described clearly.

The book contains an extensive literature review. Apparently there was at the moment of publishing not much specialized software available, and one is referred to general purpose packages as SAS, S-Plus, STATA and SPSS. Indeed SAS and S-Plus nowadays have procedures (or libraries) with enough possibilities of handling mixed generalized linear models, and in case one's specific model cannot be handled, one can always use a general optimization procedure.

The book is, for all who sooner or later will be involved in complex designs or non-normal mixed models, certainly worth having in one's library.

ISCB Membership – 1992-2008



From Zdenek Valenta

In 2009, the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB) will reach a significant milestone by convening its 30th Annual Conference (ISCB30) in Prague, Czech Republic. The Conference will take place from 23-27 August.

It is my great pleasure to inform you on behalf of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) about the progress of preparatory work, and on behalf of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) to share with you some details about what you may expect and what treats are waiting for those who will not want to miss this great occasion in the life of the Society.

The Conference will be hosted by the University of Economics in Prague and is organised by the Czech National Group of the ISCB, and co-organised by the Institute of Computer Science AS CR and the European Centre for Medical Informatics, Statistics and Epidemiology in Prague. The organisers receive much support from the Conference Organising Agency Guarant International Ltd., which has good experience in organising sizeable scientific events in Prague.

Let me start my invitation by giving you a quick overview of the pre-conference courses that will be offered on Sunday 23 August 2009 before the official start of the Conference. As has long been a custom, two full-day and two half-day courses will be on the menu. James Carpenter from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK, will give a full-day course on "Analysis of Incomplete Data". Another full-day course to be given by Stephen Senn from the University of Glasgow, UK, will review "Clinical Trial Methodology". Garrett Fitzmaurice from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, MA, USA, will give a half-day course on "Longitudinal Data Analysis", and another half-day course will be presented by Dhammika Amaratunga from Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical R&D in Raritan, NJ, USA, who will introduce "Strategies for Extracting Reliable Information from Microarray Data".

Next year, the Society will welcome its new president, Norbert Victor from the Institute for Medical Biometry and Informatics at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. The President's invited speaker for the 2009 event will be Marc Buyse from the International Institute for Drug Development, Louvain-la-Neuve and University of Hasselt in Belgium. He will address the audience with his talk entitled "On Trial Endpoints that Combine Clinical Relevance and Statistical Efficiency", which will include discussion of recent methodological advances in analyzing complex clinical trials endpoints.

The Scientific Programme Committee of the Prague event had attempted to put together an attractive invited programme combining some novel topics reflecting current trends in clinical and biomedical research with several more traditional themes from clinical biostatistics. Health Economics Evaluation, one of the distinct flavours of the Conference, will be covered by invited session organised by Andrew Briggs (UK) and Rolf Holle (Germany). Invited contributions will be given by Neil Hawkins and Tony Ades (both UK) and discussion will be lead by Theo Stijnen (the Netherlands).

Another invited session will focus on Joint Modelling of Longitudinal and Survival Data and will be

organised by Robin Henderson (UK) and Hélène Jacqmin-Gadda (France). Invited talks will be given by Jane-Ling Wang (USA), Daniel Farewell (UK) and Cécile Proust-Lima (France). The fourth invited session will centre at Regulatory Affairs, its organiser will be by Robert T O'Neill (USA). The speakers will include Frank Rockhold and Robert T O'Neill (both USA) and Joachim Röhmel (Germany). The Fifth invited session will cover Analysis of Incomplete Data and will be organised by Geert Molenberghs, the chair of the SPC (Belgium). Invited speakers scheduled for this session include James Carpenter (UK), Craig Mallinckrodt and Robert T O'Neill (both USA). And finally, the sixth invited session organised by Benoit Masse (USA) and Michal Kulich (Czech Republic) will review current trends in Statistical Methods in HIV/AIDS Research. Invited speakers will be Nicholas Jewell, Victor de Gruttola (both USA) and Alex Welte (South Africa).

Furthermore, on Thursday we will have two mini-symposia. One of those will take place a second year in a row and has evolved around a growing number of scientists interested in applying Statistics in Vaccines Research, many of whom joined the ISCB sub-committee of the same name, founded in 2008. The group has its own website (www.iscb-vaccines.info) and issues a regular Newsletter to its members. This mini-symposium will be organised by Marc Fourneau (Belgium), Jingyee Kou and Allen Izu (both USA). Another Thursday mini-symposium will focus on Biomedical Informatics and will be organised by Ulrich Mansmann (Germany) and Jana Zvárová (Czech Republic). Invited speakers will include Wolfgang Huber and Alvis Brazma (both UK), Igor Vajda (Czech Republic), Pirkko Nykänen (Finland) and Jan H. van Bommel (the Netherlands). This mini-symposium will examine statistical methodology used in microarray analyses and genomic research. Invited speakers will also focus on principles of Information Theory related to clinical decision support, review current trends and challenges in Electronic Health Record development and will also consider R&D for knowledge and decisions in healthcare.

The Call for Abstracts for the 30th Annual Conference of the ISCB is scheduled for 15 December 2008. The Society again sponsors 3 graduate student awards and 6 scientist awards available for the researchers from targeted countries. All relevant information may be found in the 2nd Announcement of ISCB30 (Call for Abstracts and Registration Brochure) distributed with the December 2008 ISCB News, or on the conference website, www.iscb2009.info.

In addition to the scientific content of ISCB30, the organisers hope to have set up an attractive social programme for the conference attendees and their accompanying persons. It will take you to Czech medieval castles, famous Pilsner brewery, popular Spa city in Western Bohemia, Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), historic Prague's Old Town and Jewish Quarter with Old-New Synagogue, examining the Prague's charms by boat or a tour to old Czech Glassworks.

On behalf of all the members of the LOC and SPC of the ISCB30, please, receive my warmest invitation to taking part at next year's 30th Annual Conference of the ISCB.

Book Review by Oke Gerke (Denmark)

William M. Bolstad

Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (Second Edition)

Wiley (2007) 978-0-470-14115-1

The first edition of the book was aimed to serve as an introductory reference to students with a reasonable mathematical background, and the topics were chosen quite similar to Frequentist introductory statistics textbooks. This second edition was enhanced by some later chapters on a more intermediate level in order to enable this textbook to be the basis for either an introductory as well as an intermediate course in Bayesian Statistics. For both kinds of courses, an outline is given.

In comparison to available introductory textbooks on Bayesian Statistics, I would place this book in between of those written by Don Berry [1] and Peter M. Lee [2]. While the first only requires the most elementary mathematics and gives an excellent approach to statistical reasoning in chapters 1-4, the latter assumes an advanced level of mathematics being more parsimonious in the getting-started section. Likewise, Bill Bolstad's book basically consists of two major parts: Part 1 comprises chapters 1-4, 5, and 7, while part 2 consists of chapters 6 and 8-16.

Chapters 1-4 offer a comprehensive general introduction to statistical science and statistical reasoning, and chapters 5 and 7 lay of the cornerstone for the second part of the book. These chapters contain the following topics:

- (1) Introduction to Statistical Science
- (2) Scientific Data Gathering
- (3) Displaying and Summarizing Data
- (4) Logic, Probability, and Uncertainty
- (5) Discrete Random Variables
- (7) Continuous Random Variables

Chapters 5 and 7 comprise discrete and continuous random variables and their probability functions including binomial, hypergeometric, Poisson, and uniform, beta, gamma, normal, respectively.

The second part of the book describes the handling of several standard statistical situations by means of Bayesian Statistics:

- (6) Bayesian Inference for Discrete Random Variables
- (8) Bayesian Inference for Binomial Proportion
- (9) Comparing Bayesian and Frequentist Inferences for Proportion
- (10) Bayesian Inference for Poisson
- (11) Bayesian Inference for Normal Mean
- (12) Comparing Bayesian and Frequentist Inferences for Mean

- (13) Bayesian Inference for Difference Between Means
- (14) Bayesian Inference for Simple Linear Regression
- (15) Bayesian Inference for Standard Deviation
- (16) Robust Bayesian Methods

While the choice of contents is comparable to other introductory textbooks on Bayesian Statistics, it is worthwhile to mention its dedicated subsection of how to choose the prior in chapter 8 and its focus on Bayesian inference using mixture priors in chapter 16 which protects against mis-specified priors. The latter is often one of the main reasons why users are reluctant to use Bayesian methods. Another big plus are sections 9 and 12 comparing Bayesian Inference for proportion and for normal mean, respectively, with corresponding Frequentist inferences in a head-to-head fashion. This clearly helps the reader to understand the fundamental differences between Frequentist and Bayesian approaches. The Frequentist approach is also recalled and its detailed knowledge is not, like in other introductory Bayesian Statistics textbooks, implicitly assumed.

Bill Bolstad's book is written in a reader-friendly and very comprehensible style which most likely serves the need for the audience in mind. Graphical representations are given extensively to ease the understanding of the concepts. Each chapter closes with a summary of Main Points and some concluding exercises for which solutions are given at the end of the book for some selected exercises. Especially the Main Points make the book a pleasant reading since they summarize the take-home messages of the respective chapters nicely while supporting the reader to focus on the main issues. Regarding computational support for the exercises, Minitab macros and R-functions can be downloaded from the book website.

All in all, Bill Bolstad's 'Introduction to Bayesian Statistics' can be highly recommended as introductory reference which might be also easily used as self-learning text. For experienced statisticians who seek to familiarize themselves with Bayesian Statistics, the second part of the book still makes this book an advisable reference for getting-started.

References:

- [1] Berry DA (1996). Statistics: A Bayesian Perspective. Duxbury, London.
- [2] Lee PM (2004): Bayesian Statistics: An Introduction. 3rd ed. Arnold, London.

ISCB29 Copenhagen: Thank You!

From Bjarne Bodin (LOC Chair)

We wish to thank all participants at the ISCB29 Copenhagen conference for their enthusiastic contribution to making the conference such a huge success. The programme, which Philip Hougaard and his SPC worked so hard on, was a blend that appealed to biostatisticians from academia as well as the pharmaceutical industry. Also, we hope you enjoyed the surroundings and the social programme.

From a statistical point of view the Copenhagen conference can be summarized as follows:

- 13 invited sessions,
- 27 contributed oral sessions,
- 2 poster sessions,
- 4 pre-conference courses,
- 3 mini-symposia,

- 4 student award winners,
- 6 scientist award winners,
- around 300 participants actively presenting, and
- **570 attendees in total**, making it one of the largest ISCB conferences in history.

The special issue of Statistics in Medicine devoted to papers from the ISCB29 conference is in preparation and will be issued late 2009.

Finally, we will hand over the torch to the organisers in Prague, wishing them a successful conference next year, and hoping to see you all in Prague.

ISCB 30th Anniversary: Call for Contributions

From David W. Warne & Emmanuel Lesaffre

Dear ISCB Members,

In 2009, ISCB is celebrating its **30th Anniversary**. We wish to celebrate this at **ISCB 30 in Prague** by putting up a **photo gallery of pictures taken at the 29 previous meetings**.

So, please could you have a look in your photo albums of pictures taken at previous ISCB meetings, and send us the material either electronically or by postal mail? It does not matter whether they were taken at presentations, during coffee breaks, on the excursions ... all are welcome. If you do not wish to send your pictures, please scan them and send these to **david_w_warne@bluewin.ch**. Or if you do not wish to scan them, then send to **David W. Warne, Chemin du Petit-Bel-Air 115, CH-1226 Thonex, Switzerland**. You will receive the original pictures back at the Prague meeting or by post.

Please indicate on the picture which ISCB meeting it involves, and if you are sending the actual pictures put also your name on the back of each picture. Also send David an email to say they're in the post.

Furthermore, we are also collecting **scientific programmes**. So, if you have material in this respect, please send it to us. Especially of interest are the conferences before 1993 i.e. Copenhagen (DK, 92), Brussels (B, 91), Nimes (F, 90), Maastricht (NL, 89), Innsbruck (A, 88), Gothenburg (S, 87), Cardiff (UK, 86), Düsseldorf (D, 85), San Marino (I, 84), Paris (F, 83), Rotterdam (NL, 82), Exeter (UK, 80), Brussels (B, 79) and the mythical early days in 1978...

Finally, if you don't have pictures/scientific programmes yourself, but you know someone in your group who might have information in this respect please **forward this request to him/her**.

Thanks in advance for your help!!!

Kind Regards

Emmanuel Lesaffre, ISCB President

David W. Warne, ISCB News Editor

ISCB30 Prague 2009: Conference Awards for Scientists (CAS)

From Julia Singer

Conference Awards for Scientists are available for biostatisticians from ISCB target countries (in particular countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as Third World countries) to attend and present a paper. Up to six such awards will be granted. An award consists of free accommodation, a short course and registration paid by ISCB. Full details of the scheme and application form are given on the website. Scientists should submit the application form, a one-page abstract, and the full poster or presentation to Julia Singer (address below). The closing date for application will be Sunday, 1 March 2009. Abstracts

not granted the award will be forwarded to SPC to participate in their review only on request.

Julia Singer
Chairman, ISCB Subcommittee on 'National Groups'
Baxter BioScience
Global Clinical Biostatistics
IZD Tower
Wagramer Strasse 17-19
A-1220 Vienna
AUSTRIA
Tel: +43 1 20100 3587
Fax: +43 1 20100 534
Email: julia_singer@baxter.com

ISCB30 Prague 2009: Student Conference Awards (SCA)

From KyungMann Kim

Student Conference Awards are available for registered postgraduate students to attend and present a paper at the 30th ISCB Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, during 23 - 27 August 2009. At least three awards will be made.

Selection will be made on the basis of a summary of the paper to be presented, which should illustrate the application of statistical methodology to clinical or epidemiological research. Results of particular studies are of interest only if the analysis has methodological implications or shows a novel and interesting application of biostatistics. Applications should be sent to:

KyungMann Kim
Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
600 Highland Ave, K6/438 CSC
Madison, WI 53792-4675
U.S.A.
Tel: +1 608 265 6380 · Fax: +1 608 265 5579
Email: kmkim@biostat.wisc.edu

Books for Review by Sylvain Larroque

Books for review:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. Ronglin Wu, Min Lin	Statistical and computational pharmacogenomics	CRC (2008) 9781584888284	
2. Bradley P. Carlin, Thomas A. Louis	Bayesian methods for data analysis (3rd edition)	CRC (2008) 9781584886976	
3. Michael J. Daniels, Joseph W. Hogen	Missing data in longitudinal studies (Strategies for Bayesian modeling and sensitivity analysis)	CRC (2008) 9781584886099	
4. Dankmar Böhning, Ronny Kuhnert and Sasivinal Rattamisiri	Meta-analysis of binary data using profile likelihood	CRC (2008) 9781584886303	
5. Garrett Fitzmaurice, Marie Davidian, Geert Verbeke and Geert Molenberghs (editors)	Longitudinal data analysis (Handbooks of modern statistical methods)	CRC (2008) 9781584886587	
6. David A. Freedman	Statistical Models, Theory and Practice	Cambridge (2005) 780521671057	
7. A. C. Atkinson, A. N. Donev and R. D. Tobias	Optimum Experimental Designs, with SAS	Oxford (2007) 978-0-19-929660-6	
8. Bill Thompson	The Nature of Statistical Evidence	Springer (2007) 978-0-387-40050-1	
9. Eric Stallard, Kenneth G. Manton and Joel E. Cohen	Forecasting Product Liability Claims	Springer (2002) 0387949879	
10. J. Rick Turner	New Drug Development: Design, Methodology, and Analysis	Wiley (2007) 978-0-470-07373-5	
11. Richard Kay	Statistical thinking for Non-Statisticians in Drug Regulation	Wiley-Blackwell (2007) 978-0-470-31971-0	
12. D. C. Hoaglin, F. Mosteller and J. W. Tukey	Exploring Data Tables, Trends, and Shapes	Wiley (2006) 0-470-04005-x	
13. Shein-Chung Chow, Mark Chang	Adaptive Design Methods in Clinical Trials	CRC (2006) 9781584887768	
14. Thomas D. Cook and David L. DeMets	Introduction to Statistical Methods for Clinical Trials	CRC (2008) 9781584880271	
15. Wojtek Krzanowski	Scientific Principles and Techniques in Scientific and Social Research	Oxford (2007) 9780199213108	

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.).

Books for Review (continued)

Books reviews in this issue:			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year) ISBN	Reviewer
1. Christopher M. Bishop	Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning	Springer (2006) 0-387-31073-8	Christos Nakas, Greece
2. Andreas Ziegler and Inke R. Koenig	A Statistical Approach to Genetic Epidemiology	Wiley (2006) 3-527-31252-8	Victor Moreno, Spain
3. William M. Bolstad	Introduction to Bayesian Statistics (Second Edition)	Wiley (2007) 978-0-470-14115-1	Oke Gerke, Denmark
4. Brian D. Ripley	Stochastic Simulation	Wiley (2006) 0-470-00960-8	Dimitris Karlis, Greece
5. A. C. Davison	Statistical Models	Cambridge (2003) 780521773393	Harry Southworth, UK
6. Marc Aerts, Helena Geys, Geert Molenberghs and Louise M. Ryan	Topics in Modelling of Clustered Data	Chapman & Hall/CRC (2002) 1-58488-185-2	Siem Heisterkamp, Netherlands

Books sent for review quite a long time ago			
Author(s)	Title	Publisher (year)	Reviewer
1. H. Brown and R. Prescott	Applied Mixed Models in Medicine (Second Edition)	Wiley (2006) 0-470-02356-2	Marie Reilly, Sweden
2. 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, Denmark
3. J. Edward Jackson	A User's Guide to Principle Components	Wiley (2003) 0-471-47134-8	Nicole Close, USA
4. J M Bernardo et al (eds.)	Bayesian Statistics 7	Oxford University Press (2003) 0-19-852615-6	Stefan Tigan, Romania
5. Jean Dickinson Gibbons and Subhabrata Chakraborti	Nonparametric Statistical Inference (Fourth Edition)	Chapman & Hall/CRC, (2003) 0-8247-4052-1	Elisabeth Svensson, Sweden
6. John Verzani	Using R for Introductory Statistics	Chapman & Hall/CRC (2005) 1-58488-450-9	Justin Clayton, USA
7. Shein-Chung Chow, Jun Shao and Hansheng Wang	Sample Size Calculations in Clinical Research	CRC (2003) 0-8247-0970-5	Jorgen Seldrup, France

Book publishers' webpages:

Hodder Arnold	www.hoddereducation.co.uk/RVE99a510f93213434c8b6939f2cb4789e5,...aspx
Blackwell	www.blackwellpublishing.com/subjects/PB/
Cambridge University Press	www.cambridge.org/uk/browse/default.asp?subjectid=1007745
CRC (Taylor and Francis)	www.crcpress.com/shopping_cart/categories/categories_products.asp?parent_id=104
Oxford University Press	www.oup.co.uk/academic/science/math/
Springer	www.springer.com/east/home/statistics?SGWID=5-10128-0-0-0
Wiley	www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-300665.html

From Cornelia Enachescu

The number of members of our group increase from 30 in 2007, to 40 in 2008. Our colleagues originate from the most important universities from Bucharest, Iasi, Timisoara, Sibiu, Brasov, Cluj and Oradea.

The balance at 30 November 2008 was 998€. The expenses include the post fees, the hire of a site for the web page of the group (will be finalized at the end of January 2009) and the invitation of James Carpenter.

The Romanian Group was co-organizer with "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu and Romanian Medical Informatics Society of the 29th International Conference of the Romanian Medical Informatics Society MEDINF 2007 - eHealth Days in Sibiu, Medical Informatics, Telemedicine, Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Sibiu, 8-11 November 2007.

The topics of the conference were: Medical record and health cards, Multimedia database, images and signals processing, Hospital Information Systems and health care networks, Teleconsulting/telediagnosis, Digital signature in health documents, Security, privacy of medical data, Regional and national information Systems, Ethics, GRID technology in healthcare, Nursing informatics, Clinical and epidemiological data bases, Statistical software in biomedicine, Bioinformatics and genome data bank, Neuroinformatics knowledge and brain cognitive processes, Neuroinformatics knowledge and brain cognitive processes, Teleradiology, telecardiology, telepathology, telediabetology, Internet in healthcare and medical web portals, Distance learning in healthcare, Decision support system in medicine, Biostatistics, Clinical epidemiology, Dental informatics.

The Romanian Group organized two days of tutorials. The tutorial "Missing data in clinical trials : a practical guide " was delivered by James Carpenter (UK). The main topics covered by this course were: A principled approach to missing data in clinical trials, Key concepts for analysis of partially observed data sets, Multiple imputation and modelling for trials with missing outcomes, Direct modelling and multiple imputation for trials with missing outcomes, Computer practical (software: Excel).

The tutorial "[Design and Analysis of Bioavailability and Bioequivalence Studies](#)" was presented by Denis Enachescu from the University of Bucharest. The topics presented at the course were: Design of bioavailability studies, Statistical Inferences for Effects from a standard 2x2 crossover design, Statistical methods for average bioavailability, Power and sample size determination.

Eighteen participants at MEDINF'2007 attended these tutorials; fifteen of them belong to the RNG and three

to the Hungarian group. Our group has invited Leon Bobrowski (Poland) to deliver a plenary conference.

The biostatistics section of this conference was organized by our group; here 16 members presented oral communications and posters. Julia Singer and Krisztina Boda, from the Hungarian group of ISCB, presented an oral communication and a poster, respectively.

The Romanian Group invited Duolao Wang (UK) to deliver a short course on clinical trials. The lectures took place between 14-16 December 2007, at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Bucharest and presented the topics: Introduction to randomized clinical trials, Essentials of randomized clinical trials, Alternative designs, Basic statistics in clinical trials, Randomization, Sample size, Sample size calculation, Trial reporting, Protocol development. The course was attended by 14 members of our group and 20 people from the pharmaceutical companies.

During the General Meeting of the Romanian National Group of ISCB, which took place in Bucharest in April 2008, Cornelia Enachescu was re-elected as Representative and Eugenia Panaitescu was re-elected as National Secretary.

Five members of the Romanian Group presented communications at the Seventh International Seminar on "Statistics and Clinical Practice", 19-21 June 2008, Warsaw, Poland. Norbert Victor and Maciej Nałęcz proposed the organization of summer school to prepare young researchers in the field of clinical biostatistics.

In the frame of Franco-Romanian Colloquium of Applied Mathematics, the Romanian Group organized a symposium on biostatistics. The Colloquium took place in Brasov between 28 August and 2 September 2008. At the symposium our group invited the following researchers: Peter Martus and Peter Schlattmann (Berlin, Germany), Costin Apostol, Oleg Melnyk and Veronique Fafeur (Lille, France), Leon Bobrowski (Warsaw, Poland), Alina Crudu, Arnaud Debussch, Ovidiu Rădulescu (Rennes, France), Stefan Markus Giebel (Luxembourg), Simona Grusea (Marseille, France), Cristian Preda (Lille, France). (For details see cs.unitbv.ro/colloque2008/site/.)

Members of the Romanian Group have accessed our 'mini' library (mostly donated by Wiley) and Statistics in Medicine (supported by ISCB).

The next General Meeting will take place in Sibiu during the Conference ASITELS 2009 Advanced Statistics and IT&C Techniques Applied to Economy and Life Sciences, 3-6 May 2009.



Medical and Pharmaceutical Statistics Research Unit

Professional Development Courses 2009



Postgraduate Statistics Centre, Lancaster University, UK

The MPS Research Unit is pleased to announce our programme of short courses for 2009 on advanced concepts in the design and analysis of clinical trials. Most of the courses are aimed at statisticians working in clinical research, but those scheduled for 10 and 12 March should be of interest to a wider audience of clinical research professionals. Lancaster is situated in the northwest of England, and is easily accessible from Manchester or Liverpool airports (60 minutes) by train or taxi. Courses take place in the new purpose-built and attractive accommodation of the Postgraduate Statistics Centre. Presenters will be John Whitehead, Anne Whitehead, Thomas Jaki, Helene Thygesen and Ting-Li Su.

CALENDAR FOR 2009

26-29 January	Pharmacological Modelling
9-12 February	Survival and Event History Analysis
23-26 February	Adaptive and Bayesian Methods in Clinical Research
2 March	Genomics: Technologies and Data Analyses
10 March	Systematic Reviews of Clinical Trials
12 March	Data and Safety Monitoring Board Workshop

FURTHER DETAILS AND BOOKING: For details of these and other courses offered by the Postgraduate Statistics Centre, go to www.maths.lancs.ac.uk/psc or contact Angela Mercer, Postgraduate Statistics Centre, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Fylde College, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YF, UK.

Tel: +44 1524 593064 Fax: +44 1524 592681 email: a.j.mercer@lancaster.ac.uk

History of ISCB – An Update

From David W. Warne

Over the page, please find an update of the history of the Executive Committee of the Society, last published 2 years ago.

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

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

We hope everything is correct! If anyone sees any inaccuracies, omissions, etc. then please let us know. We will keep it up to date and, may publish it again around the time of the next election in 2010.

History of ISCB – An Update (continued)

P = President; PP = Past-President; VP = Vice President; S = Secretary; T = Treasurer; O = Ordinary Member; Ch=Chair, N = newsletter editor; W = Webmaster; * = co-opted member, x2.1 = 1st year of 2nd term (etc.)[†]

Meetings in 1985 and 1999 held with the GMDS. Meetings in 1991 and 2003 held with the SCT

Year:	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979		
ISCB number:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	-	2	1		
Conference location	Montpellier (F)	Prague (CZ)	Copenhagen (DK)	Alexandropolis (GR)	Geneva (CH)	Szeged (H)	Leiden (NL)	London (UK)	Dijon (F)	Stockholm (S)	Trento (I)	Heidelberg (D)	Dundee (UK)	Boston (USA)	Budapest (H)	Barcelona (E)	Basel (CH)	Cambridge (UK)	Copenhagen (DK)	Brussels (B)	Nimes (F)	Maastricht (NL)	Innsbruck (A)	Gothenburg (S)	Cardiff (UK)	Düsseldorf (D)	San Marino (I)	Paris (F)	Rotterdam (NL)	(No meeting)	Exeter (UK)	Brussels (B)		
Chair of Local Organising Committee	Daures	Valentia	Nielsen/Bodin	Toutoumi	Warne	Singer	Van Houwelingen	Elbourne	Chadha-Boreham	Palngren	Valsecchi	Victor	Lawson	Geller	Hajjman	Cobos	Schenker	Day	Schmidt	Buyse	Chastang	Does	Neiss	Lörstad	Wilson	Jesdinsky	Marubini	Sancho-Garnier	van Strik	(No meeting)	Harris	Slaquet		
Lucinda Billingham	O1.2	O1.1																																
Krisztina Boda	O1.2	O1.1																																
Lutz Edler	O1.2	O1.1																																
Ulrich Mansmann	O1.2	O1.1																																
Jean-Christophe Thalabard	O1.2	O1.1																																
Giota Touloumi	O1.2	O1.1																																
Adriano Decarli	O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																														
KyungMann Kim	O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																														
Koos Zwinderman	T2.2	T2.1	T1.2	T1.1	O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																										
Harbajan Chadha-Boreham	VP.2	VP.1	S2.2	S2.1	S1.2	S1.1	O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Bjarne Nielsen/Bodin	W*	W*	W*	W*	W*	W*	O1.2	O1.1		W*	W*																							
Norbert Victor	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	T2.2	T2.1	T1.2	T1.1	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																							
David W. Warne	S1.2 N*	S1.1 N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*															
Emmanuel Lesaffre		PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	S2.2	S2.1	S1.2	S1.1	O1.2	O1.1																						
Rumana Omar			O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Catherine Quantin			O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Jeno Reiczgel			O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Marie Reilly			O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Martin Schumacher			O1.2	O1.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
Vana Sypsa			O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																												
John Whitehead				PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	T2.2	T2.1	T1.2	T1.1	O1.2	O1.1																				
Peter Lachenbruch					O1.2	O1.1																												
Maria Grazia Valsecchi						PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	S1.2	S1.1			O2.2	O1.2	O1.2	O1.1																
Elia Biganzoli							O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Stephen Evans							O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Carol Redmond							O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Julia Singer							O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Elisabeth Svensson							O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																								
Silvia Codony							W*	W*	W*																									
Simon Day								PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	S1.2	S1.1	O2.2	O1.2	O1.2	O1.1																
Simon Heisterkamp									O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																						
Nancy Geller										PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																	

History of ISCB – An Update (continued)

Year:	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979				
ISCB number:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	-	2	1				
Conference location	Montpellier (F)	Prague (CZR)	Copenhagen (DK)	Alexandroupolis (GR)	Geneva (CH)	Szeged (H)	Leiden (NL)	London (UK)	Dijon (F)	Stockholm (S)	Trento (I)	Heidelberg (D)	Dundee (UK)	Boston (USA)	Budapest (H)	Barcelona (E)	Basel (CH)	Cambridge (UK)	Copenhagen (DK)	Brussels (B)	Nimes (F)	Maastricht (NL)	Innsbruck (A)	Gothenburg (S)	Cardiff (UK)	Düsseldorf (D)	San Marino (I)	Paris (F)	Rotterdam (NL)	(No meeting)	Exeter (UK)	Brussels (B)				
Chair of Local Organising Committee	Daures	Valenta	Nielsen/Bodin	Touloumi	Werne	Singer	Van Houwelingen	Elbourne	Chadha-Boreham	Palmgren	Valsecchi	Victor	Lawson	Geller	Hajtman	Cobos	Schenker	Day	Schmidt	Buyse	Chastang	Does	Neiss	Lörstad	Wilson	Jedinsky	Marubini	Sancho-Garnier	van Strik	(No meeting)	Harris	Staquet				
Jørgen Seldrup											O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1	PP.2	PP.1	P.2	P.1	VP/M	O/M	S	S	S	S/N	O/M	O										
Mike Campbell											O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																						
Bruno Cesana											O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																						
Ted Colton											O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																						
Michael Schemper											O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																						
Karsten Schmidt												PP	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	T1.2	T1.1	O																	
Alberto Cobos											O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																						
Marc Buyse													PP.2	PP.1	P.2	P.1	VP.2	VP.1	O	O																
Bernard Huitfeldt													T2.2	T2.1	T1.2	T1.1	O1.2	O1.1																		
Stephen Senn													S2.2	S2.1	S1.2	S1.1	O*																			
Hans van Houwelingen													O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																				
Tony Johnson													O2.2	O2.1	O1.2	O1.1																				
Béla Hajtman													O1.2	O1.1																						
Irene Guggenmoos-Holzmann																O1.2	O1.1																			
Claude Chastang																	PP.2	PP.1	P	VP	O	O														
Ed Gehan																		O	O	O	O	PP	P	VP	O	O										
Wolfgang Köpcke																		O	O	PP	P	VP	T	T	T	T										
Doug Wilson																				T	T	T/M	T/M	O/M	PP	P	VP	T	T	T	T					
Giuseppe Gallus																			O	O					O	O										
Mats Lörstad																			S	S/M	PP/M	P	VP	O												
Peter Armitage																			PP	P	VP															
Arend Hegting																				O	O															
Ewa Krusinska																				O	O															
Jean-Pierre Daures																				O	O															
Thomas Zwingers																				O	O															
Rob Dixon																				O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				
Roel van Strik																				O	O	O	O	O	O	PP	P	O								
Ettore Marubini																				O	O															
Roland Does																				O	O															
A. Morabito																				O	O															
Albrecht Neiss																				O	O															
Helen Sancho-Garnier																					O			PP	P	VP										
Hans Jedinsky																									PP	P										
Tony Greenfield																												O	O							
RJ Rowlands																												O								
Rag Harris																																		Ch		
Read																																		O		
Maurice Staquet																																				

SPECIAL RATES FOR ISCB MEMBERS

Leading the Way in Biostatistics



Statistics in Medicine

is the leading journal in the field of biostatistics. It aims to influence practice in medicine and its associated sciences through the publication of papers on statistical and other quantitative methods. It provides a forum for communication between statisticians, clinicians and medical researchers with the common purpose of advancing the knowledge and understanding of the quantitative aspects of medicine.

With 30 issues as year, it publishes reviews, tutorials, discussion papers and case-studies on topics relevant to the application of statistics to medicine.

Coming Soon

Look out for the Special Issue: Papers from the 28th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics

Discover Statistics in Medicine at

www.interscience.wiley.com/statsinmedicine

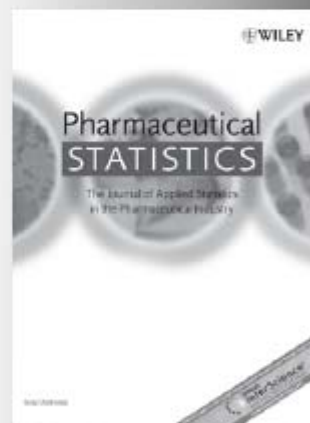
Pharmaceutical Statistics

The Journal of Applied Statistics in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Pharmaceutical Statistics is an industry-led initiative, tackling real problems in statistical application. This high quality, peer-reviewed journal reflects the nature of the pharmaceutical industry through its international and multidisciplinary coverage. It covers all aspects of statistical applications in the industry from discovery, through pre-clinical development, clinical development, post-marketing surveillance, consumer health, production, epidemiology, and health economics.

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Czech National Group: Update

From Zdenek Valenta

Representatives (3rd and final term, all will be up for election in 2009):

Representative: Zdeněk Valenta
Deputy representative: Marek Malý
Treasurer: Věra Lánská
Auditor: Jindra Reissigová

Membership: To date, the Group comprises twenty-nine full members. Some reduction in the membership numbers was seen as a result of reviewing the membership fee payment status.

Finances:

Account balance (1 Jan 2007): 6,296.44 CZK
Income (31 Oct 2008): 6,200.00 CZK
Expenditures (31 Oct 2008): 396.00 CZK
Account balance (31 Oct 2008): 12,100.44 CZK

Activities:

On 11 September 2008 the Czech National Group of the ISCB entered the third year of its official existence. To date, the Group is 29 members strong and its activity is primarily related to organising scientific seminars focusing on the applications of biostatistics in clinical, epidemiological and recently also biomedical research. Most of our members come from the universities and research institutes from Prague and Brno, the capitol cities of the Bohemian and Moravian parts of the country. Two of our current members come from Slovakia (Bratislava and Kosice), which was a former part of Czechoslovakia, as the country was known before 1 January 2003, when it peacefully divided into Czech Republic and Slovakia. These days, both countries are members of the European Union.

In March 2008, the Group welcomed a distinguished speaker, Ladislav Tomásek from the National Radiation Protection Institute in Prague 4 - Nusle, with his invited talk entitled "*The Risk of Lung Cancer Incidence in Relation to Radon Exposure and Smoking – a Nested Case-Control Study*". This lecture has been video-recorded and made available online to all members of the National Group along with the slides used in the lecture.

One of the main activities of this year's culminated in July, as the Group helped organise the 1st International Summer School of Biomedical Informatics in Prague. Its principal organiser was the Centre for Biomedical Informatics in Prague, along with the Institute of Computer Science AS CR in Prague, which also helped organise this significant event. Four distinguished lecturers from the UK (James Carpenter), Germany (Ulrich Mansmann), Spain (Fernando Martin-Sanchez) and Italy (Luciano Milanese) helped transform our effort into an apparent success. The School welcomed a total of 14 participants, graduate students and researchers from the Czech Republic, Sweden and Finland. The two principal topics of the Summer School, *Biomedical Informatics* and *Missing Data Analysis*, were allotted two days of teaching and practicals each. The feedback given by the Summer School's participants was overwhelmingly positive, leaving the organisers pondering a possible future follow-up to this event.

On 20 November 2008, the Group welcomed Jan Hendl from the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports of the Charles University in Prague. He presented his talk entitled *Current trends in meta-analysis*, followed by lively discussion. The talk was video-recorded and will be made available to all the Group's members online.

Members of the Local Organizing Committee of the 30th Annual Conference of the ISCB (ISCB30), all of whom are also members of the Czech National Group of the ISCB, have continued in preparatory work for the 2009 anniversary event, which is going to take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from 23-27 August. The Group is closely cooperating with the conference organising agency Guarant International, Ltd. (www.guarant.cz). The Conference will be held in the new premises of the University of Economics in Prague. The Scientific Programme Committee of ISCB30 works under the leadership of Geert Molenberghs. The invited programme of the Conference is virtually complete, including the pre-conference courses to be held on Sunday and the two Thursday mini-symposia (*Biomedical Informatics* and *Statistics in Vaccines Research*). The call for abstracts is scheduled for 15 December 2008. More detailed information about the event is available at the Conference website, www.iscb2009.info and in the 2009 Conference Brochure distributed with this Newsletter.

Polish National Group Report

From Ewa Kawalec

The Polish National Group of ISCB now consists of 63 members (58 in June).

During the Seventh International Seminar on 'Statistics and Clinical Practice', which took place in Warsaw from 19-21 June 2008, the special session was organized by the Polish National Group entitled 'Statistical standards in medical research projects and publications' which was addressed to medical doctors.

The next scientific meeting is scheduled for 12 December 2008 in Cracow.

Our proposal for organising a short course was approved by ISCB. The course entitled 'Generalized linear (mixed effects) models' will take place in Cracow in July 2009. The first announcement will be sent out in January 2009.

Hungarian National Group Report

From Jenő Reiczgel, Krisztina Boda and Peter Vargha

The Hungarian National Group currently has 44 members. Our general meeting together with election of representatives took place on 21 November 2008 in Budapest. Officers were re-elected for the next two-year term: national representative is Jenő Reiczgel, secretary is Krisztina Boda, and treasurer is Peter Vargha. Assets of the national group come to HUF 137,806 (about EUR 520).

In 2008, we continued our regular group meetings with presentations given by the members.

For our last meeting before the summer vacation, we organised a one-day excursion to lake Balaton in June. In October we started a book-reading seminar based on "Categorical Data Analysis" by Alan Agresti.

Some of us attended the ISCB 2008 conference in Copenhagen, as well as the Lifestat 2008 conference in Munich. Those who attended conferences or courses, reported about the most interesting topics at meetings of the National Group.

The National Group was co-organiser of the 8th Hungarian Conference on Biometrics and Biomathematics held in Budapest, from 1-2 July 2008.

Book Review by Christos Nakas (Greece)

Christopher M. Bishop

Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning

Springer (2006) 0-387-31073-8

The umbrella term "Statistical Learning" can be used to describe overlapping research areas such as Pattern Recognition, Machine Learning, and Multivariate Data Analysis which have emerged from different disciplines such as Computer Science, Engineering, and Statistics. These three research areas describe more or less the same analytical methods using different terminology and usually different notation too. Thankfully a Statistical Learning Babel has not been constructed yet and this is partly due to a few nicely written introductory books on the general topic such as the book by Hastie et al (2001), and the book by Duda et al (2001). There may be more but I happen to own these two and base my teaching on graduate Applied Multivariate Statistics on these books.

When I received "Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning" by CM Bishop for review, I was first impressed by the great illustrative figures throughout the book, the very good collection of exercises at the end of each chapter and by the nice historical notes on the scientists who first developed the theories and methods covered. A quote I like, "[...] the history of science can make your work seem more worthwhile to you" (Weinberg, 2003). The second impression was even better. The book is nicely written, the text flows

smoothly, and the topics covered do provide a robust first step for advanced graduates or first year PhD students before they proceed further to the subject of statistical learning and support vector machines. It is a vast topic beyond the first step but my view is that the author provides most of the basic ingredients to start with.

The fourteen chapters of the book include an introduction to Decision Theory, basic Probability Distributions, state of the art Regression and Classification methods, Statistical Modeling issues, Support Vector Machines, Sampling methods and Multivariate Statistical Methodology.

The pros of this excellent teaching manual are complemented by a website with plenty of accompanying material and by a Matlab toolkit (named NETLAB) that implements most of the methods presented.

References:

Duda RO, Hart PE, Stork DG (2001). *Pattern Classification 2nd edition*. Wiley.

Hastie T, Tibshirani R, Friedman J (2001). *The Elements of Statistical Learning*. Springer.

Weinberg S (2003). Scientist: Four golden lessons, *Nature* **426**: 389.

Book Review by Victor Moreno (Spain)

Andreas Ziegler and Inke R. Koenig

A Statistical Approach to Genetic Epidemiology

Wiley (2006) 3-527-31252-8

There are not so many books on statistical methods focused on genetic epidemiology. This contribution fills a gap with a good selection of topics presented in a concise format that will be useful for biostatisticians starting in the field and geneticists or epidemiologists that want to master the specialized statistics used in genetics.

The book chapters can be divided in 3 sections: introduction, linkage and association. The introduction starts with molecular genetics essentials that should be useful for statisticians like basic descriptions of DNA structure and replication mechanisms. Chapter 2 covers Mendel's laws and Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Chapter 3 is about genetic markers and the bases for identification of disease associated to genes. The introduction section ends with a chapter on data quality. The main section of the book is about linkage analysis, with an introductory chapter about genetic distances and three chapters on specific linkage methods: model based, model free for binary traits and model free for quantitative traits. Algorithms for linkage analysis are left for an appendix at the end of the book. The section on association also starts with an introductory chapter followed by family based studies, case-control studies and a final chapter on analysis of haplotypes.

Each chapter is divided into questions like: What is linkage disequilibrium? How can linkage disequilibrium be measured? How far does linkage disequilibrium extend? Each chapter ends with problems (solutions appear in an appendix), that make this a useful textbook for graduate students. Also a list of potentially useful URLs pointing to software for analysis or more details is given.

I have found this book concise and appropriate as good starting point and overview for statisticians before going to papers describing more in detail specific methods. The reference list is large and actual. I have been surprised discovering methods that don't appear in other comprehensive monographs like the Biostatistical Genetics and Genetic Epidemiology (1) or the Handbook of Statistical Genetics (2). But it will be most useful for faculties that want to prepare a course on the subject and their students.

1) Biostatistical Genetics and Genetic Epidemiology. Elston R, Olson J, Palmer L. Eds. Wiley 2002

2) Handbook of Statistical Genetics. Balding DJ, Bishop T, Cannings C. Wiley 2007

Statistics in Regulatory Affairs SC Update

from Christoph Gerlinger

We're looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact christoph.gerlinger@bayerhealthcare.com

Education SC Update

from Rumana Omar

Part A: New Opportunities from ISCB

The ISCB facilitates communication between Biostatisticians across the world, which include some of the worlds' leading experts in this field, through its annual scientific meetings, educational activities and newsletter. Over the past few years, the Society has sponsored very successful courses in biostatistically developing countries such as Cuba, Hungary, Poland and Iran (details in Part B). The pre-conference courses organised by the Society every year are very popular. In addition to these activities the Society would like to announce a new opportunity which will enable academics or institutions in the statistically developed countries to offer courses/workshops in partnership with the Society. To apply, please contact Rumana Omar, email: r.omar@ucl.ac.uk in the format given below:

Organisers/tutors should submit a proposal to the ISCB education sub-committee (ES). The proposal should include the name of the host institution, structure and contents of the proposed event, name of lecturers, an organisational plan and a business plan. This should be no more than 3 pages long.

The proposal will initially be assessed by the ES for feasibility.

If considered feasible, the proposal is sent to the ExCom for approval.

The course if approved will be under-written proportionately by the host institution and ISCB. A lower limit will be assigned to the number of participants to be enrolled within a specified time frame depending on the expenses and fees. The course will be cancelled if that limit is not reached.

Any profit incurred from the event will be shared proportionately between the host institution and ISCB.

All responsibilities for organisation of the event will lie with the host institution/organiser.

ISCB will assist in publicising the course internationally through its emailing list, newsletter and website.

Part B: Guidelines for Organising ISCB Courses

The local organisers (LO) submit a proposal to the ES, giving the location, number of participants, topic and speaker, expected costs for the LO and the course fee that will be considered. The LO can propose the course topic or select a course from those offered by ISCB members in the past (list available on the website).

The ES informs the full ExCom who gives the final approval. The ISCB covers payment for the speakers:(80 Euros/hour of actual teaching), 2 nights accommodation for 1 day course and 3 nights accommodation for 2 days course; local ***hotel basis, (prices differ between countries) and the lowest possible air fares. Either the costs for advertising, venue etc. are covered by the LO or the fee is such that it covers only such expenses. The courses are non-profit making. If there is a surplus it is given to ISCB to reduce the Society's expenses. If one month before the course is to begin the number registered is below 12, the course is cancelled. Support from ISCB is acknowledged in all course adverts. All participants are requested to fill out an anonymous feedback questionnaire designed by the ES. After the course, the LO submits a final short report to the ES. The maximum budget available from ISCB to support these courses is 2000 Euros per year.

The courses supported by ISCB so far did not exceed the 2000 Euros limit, although the speakers have been flown from or to countries outside Europe. This is due to the generosity of the speakers who have offered their service free and the local organisers who have carefully budgeted their expenses. The course on Meta-analysis in Hungary, 2007, made a small profit for ISCB as it also attracted participants from developed countries who paid the full commercial fees. The feedback from these courses have been excellent. This opportunity for the target countries is advertised through the annual general meeting, newsletter and ISCB emailing list.

Book Review by Harry Southworth (UK)

A. C. Davison

Statistical Models

Cambridge (2003) 780521773393

Davison's book is wide ranging and thorough, providing a modern account of parametric statistical inference in a broad variety of settings. The author's stated aim is to provide an "integrated modern account of statistical models covering the core topics for studies up to a masters degree in statistics."

Thus, the book might be expected to be of most use to masters students. However, the focus on modern approaches makes the book valuable to all practicing statisticians who desire keep up to date with current statistical thinking and methodology.

As already stated, the book concentrates on parametric methods so that modern data mining tools such as trees and neural networks do not feature at all, and the bootstrap gets only a single mention. Distribution free robust regression methods do get a couple of pages of discussion.

Inference, then, is based firmly on the likelihood, with uncertainty interpreted mostly in the sense of repeated sampling probability, although Bayesian inference gets a chapter of its own. Variation, uncertainty and randomness are examined in depth and illustrated with examples and simulations before basic concepts of likelihood and inference from it are covered in Chapter 4. A treatment of models and stochastic models then follows. Estimation and hypothesis testing (and the usual criticisms of hypothesis testing) are covered in Chapter 7. Linear models are treated in some depth

in Chapter 8, and designed experiments in Chapter 9. Chapter 10 then covers non-linear regression models.

Chapters 11 and 12 cover Bayesian inference, including empirical Bayes and an introduction to Markov chain Monte Carlo, and more advanced aspects of likelihood inference, including marginal, conditional and modified profile likelihood.

Along the way, the range of models dealt with is vast, including generalized linear models, time series, models for missing data, survival models, point processes, Markov chains and random fields, random effects and hierarchical models, mixture models and models for extreme values. Applications from the fields of genetics, medical trials, industrial processes, education, biology, catering, insurance claims and others demonstrate the very wide applicability of statistical modelling to real world problems. Simulation is also used extensively to illustrate points and help quantify ideas.

As Davison points out, it is the range of applications of statistics that has driven and continues to drive its development. This richness is reflected in the book, and makes the book interesting reading for any statistician. Although some of the treatment becomes rather advanced in places, the book can be highly recommended to any practicing statisticians, most of whom will no doubt benefit from exposure to the breadth of subject matter covered, and from a solid account of modern statistical methods and thinking.

Book Review by Dimitris Karlis (Greece)

Brian D. Ripley

Stochastic Simulation

Wiley (2006) 0-470-00960-8

The book of Ripley has been used widely as a textbook all over the world and is undoubtedly considered as a classic book on computer simulation. When it was written (1987) it contained all the state of the art topics of stochastic simulation and thus it was a "must" in any researcher's library. However, time has passed. This new version is actually a reprint of the previous one and no changes can be found. Even a list of typos that appeared in the web there are still there. Unfortunately, this version is just an electronic reproduction of the first edition so the quality is poor and even annoying in some plots. The gap between its original publication is larger than 20 years where the topic of stochastic simulation has found an even increasing pace in the scientific community.

The book is still a comprehensive guide to simulation methods with recommendations of methods and algorithms. It covers both the technical aspects of the subject, supported by the relevant mathematical theory. There is an introductory chapter where the idea of simulation for real problems is exposed. Then the pseudo random number generators are introduced in chapter 2. The discussion about bad generators is still didactic, especially in our days when we often accept every generator of any package as a good one without checking it. Chapter 3 describes methods to generate from different distributions, including inversion, accept-reject, ratio of uniforms, composition methods, table look up, alias etc. All the basic distributions are covered. Chapter 4 describes some particular stochastic models like order statistics, multivariate distributions, processes and random fields. Chapter 5 describes the up to date variance reduction methods including Monte Carlo integration. Chapter 6 presents output analysis

and the last chapter 7 discusses usage of simulation for inference, bootstrap and stochastic optimization. Each chapter has its own exercises (most of them have been reproduced in classrooms around the world) and there is also a reference list up to 1985. The book ends with some FORTRAN listings to implement some of the methods.

Unfortunately the years have passed and a huge new literature on the topic covered by the book has been published. For example, the introduction where usage of simulation is discussed seems too old at recent years and a number of real applications is missing. The explosion of MCMC approach in Bayesian and non-Bayesian statistics is not there. Developments in bootstrap or any other simulation based inference is sparse. Multivariate distributions are treated very shortly, while in recent days they are of much larger interest. New generators of much larger cycle are absent. Code in FORTRAN sounds too obsolete for young researchers. Advices sound strange since all the packages are now offering random number generators (though we rarely know how they have been generated).

Putting aside this aging problem, the book can still be very useful as a starting point for those that want to introduce themselves in stochastic simulation. Most of the methods are still in use, or at least they are still the basis for new methods. The book is written in a less formal style and thus some advices and comments are still valid. The book contains all the basics that one needs to know about simulation. To this direction the book can still has a merit to researchers and graduate and undergraduate students.

From Emmanuel Lesaffre

I am very pleased and excited to introduce this year's President's Invited Speaker.

When **Philip (Hougaard)** asked me whether I would agree to invite **Niels Keiding** as the Keynote Speaker to this year's ISCB meeting, I could not agree more. It is clear that **Niels** is a logical choice from a geographical point of view, but most of all he is also a logical choice from a scientific point of view.

Many of us know Niels Keiding because of his work on stochastic/counting processes and survival/event history analysis resulting in 4 books, of which two well-known:

Andersen, P.K., Borgan, Ø., Gill, R.D. & Keiding, N. (1993). *Statistical Models Based on Counting Processes*. New York: Springer

Andersen, P.K. & Keiding, N. (ed.) (2006). *Survival and Event History Analysis*. Chichester: Wiley.

His major research area pertains to different versions of stochastic/counting processes and survival analysis (if this is not a version of a stochastic process). So, he has major interest in methodological developments but his research is quite balanced between statistics, medical applications and epidemiological research and its applications but always aiming to solve real-life relevant questions.

In doing so, Niels has produced an impressive academic record and published in basically all major statistical journals, but also in the major clinical and epidemiological journals. His main application research areas include: cancer, transplantation, growth, reproduction and pregnancy, demography, and dentistry. Some of you may know that I have spent quite some time lately in dental applications, so I was pleased to see Niels involved in methodological developments to improve the analysis of correlated survival outcomes related to teeth, implants, etc. And I was also surprised to see his enthusiastic reaction in collaborating with my first dental-statistical meeting where he gave a most enjoyable tutorial on survival analysis in oral health research and most surprising: it was even enjoyable to the oral health researchers! So, the last condition for being the President's Invited Speaker is also fulfilled, namely that the speaker should have shown not only to be of great importance to the statistical society, but also has left an important impression on the ISCB President.

Further, that the appreciation of Niels' work is great is shown by the fact that Niels is/has been

- Elected to International Statistical Institute 1978.
- Fellow of Institute of Mathematical Statistics (USA) 1987.
- Marvin Zelen Leadership Award in Statistical Science (Harvard School of Public Health) 2001.
- Peter Armitage Lecturer, MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge (England) 2004.
- Elected as Foreign Member of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters 2005.
- Honorary Life Member, International Biometric Society 2008.

Further, Niels is/has been:

- Member of **editorial/advisory board** for Scandinavian Journal of Statistics, European Journal of Clinical Investigation, Controlled Clinical Trials, Biometrics, Statistics in Medicine, Biometrical Journal, Biostatistics, Annals of Statistics and Demographic Research.
- Refereed manuscripts for many journals in statistics, probability theory, biostatistics, population dynamics and medical science.
- Reviewer for Mathematical Reviews. Co-editor of Interdisciplinary Series and Mono-graph Series, Chapman & Hall, and of Encyclopedia of Biostatistics
- **Organisations:** Co-founder of and secretary in Danish Society of Theoretical Statistics, treasurer of Bernoulli Society of Mathematical Statistics and Probability. President of The Biometric Society. Member of Council and several ad hoc committees in Institute of Mathematical Statistics (USA) and International Statistical Institute; President ISI
- Member of many **programme committees** for international scientific conferences
- Further (and if my voice is becoming a bit monotone then don't blame me but Niels), he
- served on numerous boards, panels, search committees inside and outside his university
- advisor of 16 PhD students

While Niels enjoyed many visiting professorships and international study leaves, he was faithful during his whole academic career to only one university: that of Copenhagen. A characteristic that I can observe also with other Danish statisticians.

Hence, if there is one influential biostatistician to be invited as keynote speaker at the annual international ISCB meeting in Copenhagen, it must be no doubt

Niels Keiding

I now leave the floor to him for his talk entitled formerly:

Sampling patterns in event history analysis with applications to epidemiology.

But now changed into

The three descriptive probabilities in competing risk analysis

(and although the title does not suggest it, Niels promised to use at least one dental example as illustrations this was the deal ☺)

Please Niels, the floor is yours...

From Emmanuel Lesaffre

The child that was born a couple of days ago is tonight almost at its retiring age! For those who are not aware, and I guess that there are many newcomers to this meeting this year, it is customary that the President gives a speech at the conference dinner that is both serious but also somewhat funny.

For the funny part, occasionally Stephen Senn is asked to amuse you. For instance, in the first ISCB Copenhagen meeting I have been told that Stephen gave a "true" story of the Vikings. I am sure if I had asked him to do so he would have done an excellent job by telling a number of jokes, somewhat of which could be at the edge of decency, however.

But, I thought as a retiring President, I should also give it a try. So, instead of consulting Stephen, I consulted the internet. I thought it would be most appropriate to look for a local funny story and I found this:

A student in the University of Copenhagen (long time ago) got the following exam question in physics: "Describe how to determine the height of a skyscraper with a barometer." One student replied: "Tie a long piece of string to the neck of the barometer, then lower the barometer from the roof of the skyscraper to the ground. The length of the string plus the length of the barometer will equal the height of the building."

This highly original answer so incensed the examiner that the student was failed immediately. He appealed on the grounds that his answer was indisputably correct, and the university appointed an independent arbiter to decide the case. The arbiter judged that the answer was indeed correct, but did not display any noticeable knowledge of physics.

To resolve the problem it was decided to call the student in and allow him six minutes in which to provide a verbal answer which showed at least a minimal familiarity with the basic principles of physics. For five minutes the student sat in silence, forehead creased in thought.

The arbiter reminded him that time was running out, to which the student replied that he had several extremely relevant answers, but couldn't make up his mind which to use. On being advised to hurry up the student replied as follows:

"Firstly, you could take the barometer up to the roof of the skyscraper, drop it over the edge, and measure the time it takes to reach the ground. The height of the building can then be worked out from the formula $H = 0.5g \times t^2$. But bad luck on the barometer.

"Or if the sun is shining you could measure the height of the barometer, then set it on end and measure the length of its shadow. Then you measure the length of the skyscraper's shadow, and thereafter it is simple matter of proportional arithmetic to work out the height of the skyscraper.

"But if you wanted to be highly scientific about it, you could tie a short piece of string to the barometer and swing it like a pendulum, first at ground level and then on the roof of the skyscraper. The height is worked out by the difference in the gravitational restoring force $T = 2\pi \sqrt{l/g}$.

"Or if the skyscraper has an outside emergency staircase, it would be easier to walk up it and mark off the height of the skyscraper in barometer lengths, then add them up.

"If you merely wanted to be boring and orthodox about it, of course, you could use the barometer to measure the air pressure on the roof of the skyscraper and on the ground, and convert the difference in millibars into feet to give the height of the building.

"But since we are constantly being exhorted to exercise independence of mind and apply scientific methods, undoubtedly the best way would be to knock on the janitor's door and say to him 'If you would like a nice new barometer, I will give you this one if you tell me the height of this building.'"

The student was Niels Bohr, the only Dane to win the Nobel prize for Physics in 1922.

Ok, this was the funny part of my speech let us move now to the serious part. Being a member of the ExCom for about ten years shows that I have been concerned with the well-being of the Society for a long time. Hence it is natural that I have been

also reflecting about the future of our Society especially because this is my second and last year as President.

I wondered what will be, not the immediate, but the long term future of our Society and I looked into my crystal ball to predict the future of the Society on a long term basis, say in 2020. The advantage of making predictions in the long run is that, if they are wrong probably no one will remember what I have said so many years ago. For those who do remember my predictions, I can always deny them and claim that they have a bad memory.

I predict that the Society will still exist in 2020, isn't that great! Not only will it still exist, it will have grown also considerably. The reason for that is that we will have made the move towards China. Everyone is keen nowadays to take part of the explosive evolution in that part of the world. As statisticians we are usually late to realize what to do, but finally we make the right moves. However, this implied that the majority of the ISCB members will then be Chinese at that moment and that the ExCom may have to take the decision to change the meaning of the letter "C" in ISCB, implying that we will then talk of the **International Society of Chinese Biostatisticians**.

In 2020, the President's activities will be reduced to giving speeches at City halls, Welcome Receptions, Conference dinners (similar to the function of the king of my country for as long as it will exist of course). The real power will then lie in the hands of the Treasurer. This trend is already present these days but will definitely aggravate in the coming years.

In 2020 many of the longstanding members will be still present, but perhaps not standing anymore but rather sitting... Two of our icons, two fellow statisticians whom I appreciate very much, John Whitehead and Stephen Senn will still be present and assist and often entertain our annual meeting with their critical remarks and their wisdom.

At that time John Whitehead will have given full credit to his name. Unfortunately, at that time he will be in a confused state not knowing anymore whether to choose between the frequentist or the Bayesian paradigm. And by that time, he will then have become a frequentist Bayesian, i.e. John will be frequently a Bayesian.

Also, Stephen Senn will be in a difficult period of his life. After having spent his life on scrutinizing old and new developments in statistics, for example Stephen does not like the method of propensity scores, random effects modelling, R^2 , etc he will have exhausted all methods and will find himself in a state of desperation. Because of that he will change his name to Stephen Chen (a common habit at that time initiated at this year's meeting), and will move to China to start again a new academic career. He will then write his books in Chinese. No need to advertise his books in his talks anymore, because the potential audience has increased explosively by his move. Neither does he have to wonder about minimisation, there are enough potential patients in China!

However, I have not found answers to all my questions: After having found all genes for diseases, the GWA studies will move towards studying the genes for choosing particular professions. A start has been made (at least to my knowledge) in Rotterdam where they found the/a gene for entrepreneurship. But it is not clear whether there is one single gene responsible for becoming a statistician, most likely not. Also, how adaptive will our designs be in 2020? Will we change our design everyday, with every patient, etc.? How much smoothing will we apply to our statistical models? What I do know, however, is that I will be enjoying my status of past President... Thank you!

But, before ending my speech let us come back to this year's meeting. I would like to thank warmly the Local Organizing Committee, especially Bjarne Bodin but definitely also Rita Schou, Helge Gydesen, Ingrid Harbo, Judith Jacobsen, Per Broberg, Ebsen Budtz-Jorgensen and Philip Hougaard. Also we owe the Scientific Programme Committee, great thanks for their excellent work in composing a fine scientific programme. Let me thank them by thanking the chair, Philip Hougaard.

ISCB GENERAL INFORMATION

Advertising Rates

The prices are: Full A4 page: € 500 Half A4 page: € 300 Quarter A4 page: € 200	Additionally, we will include loose flyers with the distribution of the newsletter at an initial handling cost of € 500. However, if the addition of the flyers increases the postal charges, the advertiser will also be charged the difference in distribution costs. For further information, please contact the ISCB Office.
Publishing dates: Jun 2009 (and deadlines) Dec 2009	early May 2009 early Nov 2009
Adverts sent to the ISCB emailing list of approximately 900 current and recent members:	€ 750 for 4 emails/year € 300 for a single email
ISCB webpage advertising:	€ 750 for one year with Link from ISCB's homepage

IMPORTANT NOTE: Email Lists and Personal Information

ISCB has a strict policy not to give out any information concerning its members to **any** organisation which requests it. If a company wishes to send material to the members, the brochures must be sent to the Society's Permanent Office and News Editor for distribution with the News (see above). Alternatively, small non-commercial announcements can be sent free of charge as an email to most members of ISCB.

Society's Aims

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

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

Changes of Address or Email

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

Information on Submitting Articles

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

ISCB Office and Executive Committee: Contact Details

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<p>Professor of Biostatistics and Chair of the Department of Medical Biometry and Informatics, Medical Faculty, Ruprecht-Karls-University, Heidelberg, Germany until 2007, now retired. Main activities are biostatistical consulting of clinical research and responsibility for the design, 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, was Treasurer from 2003-06 and Vice President from 2007-2008. In 1999, I organised ISCB20 in Heidelberg. As 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.</p>				
Vice-President: Harbajan Chadha-Boreham	Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Department of Biometry, Gewerbestrasse 16, CH-4123 Allschwil, Switzerland	+41 61 565 66 69	+41 61 565 64 70	Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com
<p>Consultant Biostatistician in the Department of Biometry, Actelion Pharmaceuticals 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. Current interests are focused on statistical methods for the evaluation of medical diagnostic tools and the evaluation of treatments for rare diseases. 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 (2002) 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 recently formed ISCB Subcommittee on Membership, I have been involved in various initiatives for promoting our society to increase its membership. I have served on the ISCB Executive Committee for eight years; four years as an ordinary member and four years as Secretary, taking care of the quarterly teleconferences of the ExCom, the Annual ExCom and General Meetings. As Vice-President and Chair of the Conference Organising Subcommittee, I would facilitate exchange of experiences of the past and future organisers so that we can continue to offer ISCB Members annual meetings that have high scientific quality, are socially interesting and are financially successful. As a Member of the Subcommittee on Membership, I will help to step up our efforts to foster ISCB links with sister societies that are involved in clinical and epidemiological research.</p>				
Treasurer: Koos Zwinderman	Academic Medical Centre, Dept. of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of Amsterdam, PO Box 22660, NL-1100 DD Amsterdam, Netherlands	+31 20 5665820	+31 20 6912683	a.h.zwinderman@amc.uva.nl
<p>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 (the Netherlands) and obtained my PhD at the University of Nijmegen (the Netherlands). My thesis concerned consistency of estimators and goodness of fit tests of a variant of the random-effects logistic regression model. My biostatistical interests are amongst others-statistical genetics, repeated measures and monitoring, clinical trials, and 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, was member of the organising committee of the Leiden conference in 2004, and was a member of the ExCom for the period 2003-2006, and ISCB treasurer 2006-2008. As treasurer I would like to proceed to monitor the financial situation of the Society and help organizing successful scientific conferences that are sufficiently profitable to carry on the Society's work.</p>				
Secretary and News Editor: David W. Warne	Chemin du Petit-Bel-Air 115, CH-1226 Thônex, Switzerland	+41 22 700 63 80		david_w_warne@bluewin.ch
<p>Associate Director Biostatistics, Merck Serono, Geneva, Switzerland. My main activities in medical statistics involve designing clinical development projects, and the design, conduct, analysis and reporting of clinical trials in infertility. I am especially interested in non-inferiority and equivalence studies and in the practical aspects of clinical trials such as randomisation and use of Bayesian methods. I joined ISCB in 1992 as Newsletter Editor and have attended all the annual meetings from 1993 to 2008 and taken part in most of the Executive Committee meetings over the last 16 years. As well as editing 34 issues of the ISCB News, I was chair of the Communications Subcommittee from 1999-2007 and run the Society's emailing list. I have been a member of the Subcommittees on Conference Organising since 2004 and Membership since 2007. I was the chair of the Local Organising Committee of ISCB27 in Geneva in 2006. In 2007, I was honoured to be made a Life Member of ISCB. As Secretary, I look forward to continue helping with the organisational aspects of the Society and its annual meetings and, as an Officer of the ExCom, I would like to help ISCB maintain its reputation for providing highly successful annual meetings and courses.</p>				
Webmaster: Bjarne Bodin	Cyncron Biometrics A/S, PO Box 130, Teglgården 24, DK-3460 Birkerød, Denmark	+45 4567 2278	+45 7022 1571	bn@Cyncron.com

ISCB Office and Executive Committee: Contact Details (continued)

Who	Address	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Past President: Emmanuel Lesaffre	Catholic University Leuven, Biostatistical Centre, U.Z. St. Rafael, Kapucynenvoer 35, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium	+32 16 336 896	+32 16 336 900	emmanuel.lesaffre@med.kuleuven.be
Lucinda Billingham	Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit, University of Birmingham, UK	+44 121 414 3790	+44 121 414 3700	L.J.Billingham@bham.ac.uk
Krisztina Boda	Dept. of Medical Informatics, University of Szeged, Hungary	+36 62 545 079	+36 62 544 566	boda@ dmi.u-szeged.hu
Adriano Decarli	Istituto di Statistica Medica e Biometria, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Venezian 1, I-20133 Milan, Italy	+39 02 50320859	+39 02 50320866	adriano.decarli@unimi.it
Lutz Edler	Dept. of Biostatistics, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany	+49 6221 42 2392	+49 6221 42 2397	Edler@ dkfz.de
KyungMann Kim	Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, 600 Highland Ave, K6/438 CSC, Madison, WI 57392-4675, USA	+1 608 265 6380	+1 608 265 5579	kmkim@biostat.wisc.edu
Ulrich Mansmann	Institute of Medical Biometry & Bioinformatics, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Germany	+49 89 7095 4491	+49 89 7095 7491	mansmann@ibe.med.uni-muenchen.de
Jean-Christophe Thalabard	Medical Faculty, University Paris Descartes and Diagnostic Centre, Hôtel- Dieu, APHP, Paris, France	+33 14 234 8099		jean-christophe.thalabard@ htd.aphp.fr
Giota Touloumi	Dept. of Hygiene, Epidemiology & Medical Statistics, Medical School, University of Athens, Greece	+30 210 7462086	+30 210 7462205	gtouloum@med.uoa.gr

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.

ISCB Subcommittees: Contact Details

Please contact the chairs of these subcommittees for further information.

Title & Email	Terms of Reference	Members	Email addresses
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: Bjarne Bodin (DK) Emmanuel Lesaffre (B) Tim Ramsay (CDN) Giota Touloumi (GR) Zdenek Valenta (CZR) David W Warne (CH) Koos Zwinderman (NL)	Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com bn@ Cyncron.com emmanuel.lesaffre@med.kuleuven.be tramsay@ ohri.ca gtouloum@ med.uoa.gr valenta@ euromise.cz david_w_warne@ bluewin.ch a.h.zwinderman@ amc.uva.nl
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) Eric Cobo (E) Havi Murad (ISR) Catherine Quantin (F) Carol Redmond (USA) Jeno Reiczigel (H) Elisabeth Svensson (S) Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I) Norbert Victor (D)	Rumana@ stats.ucl.ac.uk m.j.campbell@ sheffield.ac.uk ncclose@ yahoo.com erik.cobo@ upc.edu havim@ gertner.health.gov.il catherine.quantin@chu-dijon.fr ckr3@ pitt.edu reiczigel.jeno@ gmail.com elisabeth.svensson@esi.oru.se grazia.valsecchi@ unimib.it victor@ imbi.uni-heidelberg.de
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 6. To consider the future of the Newsletter, including ways to support the Editor, procedures for transition of editorship. 7. To maintain the ISCB homepage on the World Wide Web and facilitate placement of annual meeting information on the homepage. 8. To consider other communications with members, such as through email or the World Wide Web.	Chair: Emmanuel Lesaffre (B) Secretary: KyungMann Kim (USA) Members: Michal Abrahamowicz (CDN) Bjarne Bodin (DK) Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH) Philip Hougaard (DK) Toshiro Tango (JPN) Maria Grazia Valsecchi (I) Norbert Victor (D) David W. Warne (CH)	emmanuel.Lesaffre@med.kuleuven.be kmkim@ biostat.wisc.edu michal@ epimgh.mcgill.ca bn@ Cyncron.com Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@Actelion.Com phou@ lundbeck.com tango@ niph.go.jp grazia.valsecchi@ unimib.it victor@ imbi.uni-heidelberg.de david_w_warne@ bluewin.ch

How to Contact the ISCB Subcommittees (continued)

Title & Email	Terms of Reference	Members	Email addresses
<p>National Groups</p> <p>Isccb-national-groups@googlegroups.com</p>	<p>1. To help those who are interested in forming a National Group through the approval process.</p> <p>2. To review the arrangements with the current National Groups, specifically regarding financial matters.</p> <p>3. To set rules and standards for funding of ISCB members of National Groups and others from countries with exchange control restrictions or barriers.</p> <p>4. The Subcommittee administers the Conference Awards for Scientists for the annual ISCB meetings.</p>	<p>Chair/Secretary: Julia Singer (A)</p> <p>Members: Simon Day (UK) Krista Fischer (EST) Stanislav Katina (A) Ewa Kawalec (PL) Norbert Victor (D) John Whitehead (UK)</p>	<p>julia_singer@ baxter.com</p> <p>simon.day@ roche.com</p> <p>Krista.Fischer@ ut.ee</p> <p>stanislavkatina@ hotmail.com</p> <p>mxkawale@ cyf-kr.edu.pl</p> <p>victor@ imbi.uni-heidelberg.de</p> <p>j.whitehead@ lancaster.ac.uk</p>
<p>Statistics in Regulatory Affairs</p> <p>isccb-reg-aff@googlegroups.com</p>	<p>The subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs will review, comment upon and seek to influence the development of regulatory requirements, guidelines and other documents concerning the scientific aspects of data generation, collection, management, analysis, and reporting. In general, the subcommittee will seek out and handle all regulatory issues in the name of the Society with the approval of the President or in his/her absence, the Vice-President.</p>	<p>Chair/Secretary: Christoph Gerlinger (D)</p> <p>Members: Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH) Anna Petroccione (I) Martin Schumacher (D) Jørgen Seldrup (F)</p>	<p>christoph.gerlinger@ bayerhealthcare.com</p> <p>Harbajan.Chadha-Boreham@ Actelion.Com</p> <p>anna.petroccione@ nervianoms.com</p> <p>ms@ imbi.uni-freiburg.de</p> <p>Jorgen.seldrup@ quintiles.com</p>
<p>Student Conference Awards</p> <p>isccb-stud-conf-awrd@googlegroups.com</p>	<p>Student conference awards are available for registered postgraduate students to attend the annual meeting and present a paper. The Subcommittee shall receive submissions, judge them, and administer the awards. The rules are announced in a timely issue of the Newsletter.</p>	<p>Chair/Secretary: KyungMann Kim (USA)</p> <p>Members: Bruno Cesana (I) Jan Lanke (S) Bianca de Stavola (UK) Vana Sypsa (GR)</p>	<p>kmkim@ biostat.wisc.edu</p> <p>cesana@ med.unibs.it</p> <p>jan.lanke@ stat.lu.se</p> <p>Bianca.Stavola@ lshtm.ac.uk</p> <p>vsipsa@ cc.uoa.gr</p>
<p>Vaccines</p> <p>isccb-vaccines@googlegroups.com</p> <p>Please see www.isccb-vaccines.info</p>	<p>1. Create a professional platform for statisticians active in the research on vaccines.</p> <p>2. Discuss new regulatory guidelines and comment upon draft guidelines, in collaboration with the subcommittee on Statistics in Regulatory Affairs.</p> <p>3. Keep up-to-date, discuss, apply and encourage relevant statistical and methodological developments.</p> <p>4. Encourage professional development.</p> <p>5. Organize symposia in the annual ISCB meetings or in collaboration with ISCB on methodological developments in vaccines research.</p>	<p>Chair: Andrew Dunning (USA)</p> <p>Secretary: Jos Nauta (NL)</p> <p>Members: Ivan Chan (USA) Paddy Farrington (UK) Allen Izu (USA) Marc Fourneau (B) Jingyee Kou (USA) Lawrence Moulton (USA) Catherine Quantin (F) Julia Singer (A)</p>	<p>andrew.dunning@ sanofipasteur.com</p> <p>jos.nauta@ solvay.com</p> <p>ivan_chan@ merck.com</p> <p>c.p.farrington@ open.ac.uk</p> <p>allen.izu@ novartis.com</p> <p>marc.fourneau@ gskbio.com</p> <p>jingyee.kou@ fda.hhs.gov</p> <p>lmoulton@ jhsph.edu</p> <p>catherine.quantin@ chu-dijon.fr</p> <p>julia_singer@ baxter.com</p>

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 Leiden (2004), Szeged (2005), Geneva (2006), Alexandroupolis (2007) and Copenhagen (2008). The next meeting will be held in Prague (2009). 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 2009-10 is as follows:

Officers:

President: Norbert Victor (D),
Vice-President: Harbajan Chadha-Boreham (CH),
Treasurer: Koos Zwinderman (NL),
Secretary: David W. Warne (CH),

Members:

Past-President: Emmanuel Lesaffre (B),
News Editor: David W. Warne (CH),
Webmaster: Bjarne Bodin (DK),
Members: Lucinda Billingham (UK),
Krisztina Boda (Hungary), Adriano Decarli (Italy), Lutz Edler (Germany), KyungMann Kim (USA), Ulrich Mansmann (Germany), Jean-Christophe Thalabard (France), Giota Touloumi (Greece).

The Annual General Meeting of the ISCB is organised to coincide with the scientific meeting. Membership of the Society is drawn from around 40 countries worldwide and the number of members is about 900.



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 2009) Ordinary membership fee is €40. The Full-time Student Membership fee is €20.


Applications for membership should be sent to:

ISCB Permanent Office,
PO Box 130,
Teglgaarden 24,
DK-3460 Birkerød, Denmark

Tel: +45 4214 6279
Fax: +45 7022 1571
email: office@iscb.info
www: www.iscb.info



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL BIOSTATISTICS

2009 Membership Subscription

Surname: _____		First name: _____	
Title (Prof/Dr/etc): _____		Post held: _____	
Institute/Company: _____			
Address: _____ _____			
Post code and country: _____			
Phone No.: _____		E-mail: _____	
Fax No.: _____		Please provide your email address as it will be used to send you the ISCB News in the future.	
SUBSCRIPTION:			
<input type="checkbox"/>		Ordinary membership of ISCB (to 31 December 2009):	€(EUR) 40.00
(please tick one only) <input type="checkbox"/>		Full-time Student Membership of ISCB (to 31 December 2009):	€(EUR) 20.00 (students should provide a letter from their supervisor or head of department)
Have you previously been a member of ISCB? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
PAYMENT IS MADE BY:			
Credit Card Authorisation: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> VISA Electron <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Euro Card <input type="checkbox"/> JCB			
Signature: _____		Date: _____	
Your name on the credit card:	Card number to debit (16 digits):	Validation code (3 digits) cvc/cvv:	Expiry date (MM/YY):
_____	_____	_____	_____
Cheque/Money Order:			
<input type="checkbox"/> A cheque made payable in € – drawn on a bank in the United Kingdom			
<input type="checkbox"/> A Money Order			
Cheque / Money Order No. (if known): _____		Date sent: _____	
Cheques must be made payable to the <i>International Society for Clinical Biostatistics</i> and returned with this form to the Permanent Office address. Note: Non-Euro cheques, bank cheques not drawn on a UK bank, and cheques not made payable to ISCB will be returned.			
Bank Transfer:			
Please transfer direct to:		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Barclays Bank plc	PO Box 69	Euro Account No.	6687 4511
121 Queen Street	Cardiff CF1 1SG	Bank Sort Code:	20-18-15
UK		IBAN:	GB28 BARC 2018 1566 8745 11
		SWIFT/BIC:	BARCGB22
Please return this form either by e-mail to: office@iscb.info			
or by post to: ISCB Permanent Office PO Box 130 Teglgaarden 24 DK-3460 Birkerød Denmark			
Tel: +45 4214 6279			
Fax: +45 7022 1571			

Calendar

23-27 August 2009	Prague, Czech Republic
ISCB30 Info: Zdenek Valenta email: valenta@euromise.cz web: www.iscb2009.info	
29 August – 02 September 2010	Montpellier, France
ISCB31	

	ISCB is affiliated to ISI. For the latest conference information, see: isi.cbs.nl/calendar.htm	
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Mar 18-20	IAENG International Conference on Data Mining and Applications (ICDMA'09) will take place in Hong Kong. The conference is held under the International MultiConference of Engineers and Computer Scientists 2009. The IMECS 2009 is organized by the International Association of Engineers (IAENG), and serves as good platforms for the engineering community members to meet with each other and to exchange ideas. Information: IAENG Secretariat E-mail: imecs@iaeng.org Website: www.iaeng.org/IMECS2009/ICDMA2009.html	Jun 30-Jul 3	XIII International Conference <i>Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis</i> (ASMDA-2009), to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania. Papers of ASMDA-2009 will be published in ISI Proceedings, disseminated during conference, as well as in special issues of top-rated journals. Information: Leonidas Sakalauskas Phone: +3705 2109323 Fax: +3705 2729209 E-mail: asmda2009@asmda.net Websites: www.asmda.net/asmda2009 , www.mii.lt/asmda-2009
Mar 24-27	The 6 th International Conference on Multiple Comparison Procedures. March, 2009, Tokyo University of Science, Japan. The conference will focus on current research and applications of multiple comparison procedures. Researchers from academia, industry and regulatory authorities will present new results on topics as multiple endpoints, adaptive designs, clinical trials, bioinformatics, genomics, false discovery rate, closed testing and so on. Information: Chihiro Hirotsu Phone: +81 42 591 7142 Fax: +81 42 591 5204 E-mail: hirotsu@ge.meisei-u.ac.jp Website: www.mcp-conference.org	Jul 1-3	2009 International Conference of Computational Statistics and Data Engineering, to be held in London, UK The conference ICCSDE'09 is organized by the International Association of Engineers (IAENG), and serves as good platforms for the engineering community members to meet with each other and to exchange ideas. Information: IAENG Secretariat E-mail: wce@iaeng.org Website: www.iaeng.org/WCE2009/ICCSDE2009.html
May 10-14	5 th Conference of the <i>Eastern Mediterranean Region of the International Biometric Society</i> (EMR-IBS) will be held at the Military Museum in Istanbul, Turkey. Topics include but not limited to: Clinical Trials, Data Mining, Bioinformatics, Microarray Data, Longitudinal Data Analysis, Medical Informatics, Meta Analysis, Methods in Diagnostic Medicine and Survival Analysis. E-mail: info@ibs-emr2009.com Website: www.ibs-emr2009.com	Jul 2-6	The Sixth International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking, and Literacy. SRTL-6: The Role of Context and Evidence in Informal Inferential Reasoning, to be held in Brisbane, Australia. The Forum's focus will build on the work presented and discussed at SRTL-5 on informal ideas of statistical inference. Conference attendance is by invitation only. E-mail: SRTL2009@gmail.com Website: srtl.stat.auckland.ac.nz
May 25-29	The 41 th Annual Conference of the French Statistical Society (SfDS), Bordeaux, France. Les 41 ^{èmes} Journées de la Statistique, Société Française de Statistique, Bordeaux, France. Information: Ingrid Rochel Phone: +33 557 57 10 65 Fax: +33 557 57 46 43 E-mail: JDS2009@sm.u-bordeaux2.fr Website: www.sm.u-bordeaux2.fr/JDS2009/index.html	Jul 20-22	International Symposium in Statistics on GLLMM, to be held in the Memorial University, St. John's, Canada. The objective of this 'Generalized linear longitudinal mixed models' symposium is to bring together speakers and discussants to describe the latest research such as parametric and non-parametric inferences with applications to Biostatistics, Econometrics, and Ecological and Environmental studies, etc. Information: Brajendra Sutradhar (bsutradh@math.mun.ca). Website: www.iss-2009-stjohns.ca
May 31-Jun 3	37 th Annual Meeting of the <i>Statistical Society of Canada</i> , Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. This conference will bring together academic, governmental and industrial researchers as well as users of statistics and probability and will feature workshops, invited and contributed sessions in all areas of statistics and probability. Information: Local Arrangements Chair- Nancy Heckman Phone: +1 (604) 822-3595 Fax: +1 (604) 822-6960 E-mail: nancy@stat.ubc.ca Website: www.ssc.ca/2009/index_e.html	Jul 20-24	The 27 th <i>European Meeting of Statisticians</i> will be held in Toulouse, France, held under the auspices of the European Regional Committee (ERC) of the EMS 2009 will be the major European international meeting of 2009 covering mathematical statistics, statistical applications and applied probability. New researchers and PhD students are especially invited to submit contributed papers. Information: Jean-Claude Fort, President, Local Organising Committee E-mail: ems2009@math.univ-toulouse.fr Websites: bs-erc.stat.unipd.it , www.math.univ-toulouse.fr/EMS2009/
Jun 15-17	The second <i>International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies</i> (IWSM) will be held at the University of Technology of Troyes, Troyes, France. The workshop covers all aspects of sequential methodologies in mathematical statistics and information theory from theoretical developments in optimal stopping, sequential analysis, change detection to different applications in mathematical finance, quality control, clinical trials, signal and image processing, etc. Information: Igor Nikiforov Phone: +33 3 25 71 56 78; Fax: +33 3 25 71 56 99 E-mail: Igor.Nikiforov@utt.fr Website: www.utt.fr/iwsm2009	Jul 20-24	The 24 th <i>International Workshop on Statistical Modeling</i> will be held at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The deadline for abstract submission is February 13, 2009. Information: James Booth E-mail: jim.booth@cornell.edu Website: www.stat.cornell.edu/IWSM2009
Jun 18-20	BISP6 -Sixth Workshop on <i>Bayesian Inference in Stochastic Processes</i> , to be held in the Accademia Cusano, Bressanone/Brixen (BZ), Italy. BISP is devoted to review, discuss and explore directions of development of Bayesian Inference in Stochastic Processes and use of Stochastic Processes for Bayesian Inference. BISP6, endorsed by ISBA (International Society for Bayesian Analysis) and SIS (Italian Statistical Society), is organised by CNR IMATI in cooperation with George Washington University. Information: Fabrizio Ruggeri and Antonio Pievatolo Phone: +39 0223699521 Fax: +39 0223699538 E-mail: bsp6@mi.imati.cnr.it Website: www.mi.imati.cnr.it/conferences/bsp6.html	Aug 2-6	<i>Joint Statistical Meeting</i> , organized by the American Statistical Association and to be held in Washington, D.C.. Website: www.amstat.org/meetings
Jun 24-26	The Institute of Statistics, University of Neuchâtel is organizing a conference in honor of Jean-Claude Deville to be held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Jean-Claude Deville is one of the most influential survey statisticians of the last 30 years. This workshop welcomes the exceptional opportunity of celebrating his contributions to survey sampling methodology. This workshop will also serve the purpose of showcasing the sample methodology. Information: Soazig L'Helgouach E-mail: soazig.lhelgouach@unine.ch Website: www2.unine.ch/colloque_deville/page24065_en.html	Aug 16-22	International Statistical Institute, 57th 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 Statistics Education, the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics, the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics, and the International Environmental Society, to be held in <i>Durban, South Africa</i> . Information: ISI Permanent Office, P.O. Box 24070 2490 AB The Hague, The Netherlands. Phone: +31-70-3375737 Fax: +31-70-3860025 E-mail: isi@cbs.nl , isi2009@stats.wits.ac.za Website: www.statssa.gov.za/isi2009/default.aspx
		Aug 23-27	30 th <i>Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics</i> will take place in Prague, Czech Republic. It will provide a scientific forum for international exchange of theory, methods and applications of biostatistics in medical research and practice 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. Information: Zdenek Valenta E-mail: valenta@euromise.cz Website: www.iscb2009.info/