



(<http://www.statmod.org>)

ANNUAL BULLETIN (2003-2004)

1. A few words from the chairman

It was with great pleasure that I could announce last year in Leuven that our Society was a fact. It is the result of many years of work of a dedicated group of people. Indeed, over the last years we have looked for ways to carve in stone our achievements, namely a yearly successful meeting on statistical modelling, a journal on statistical modelling, micro-workshops, etc. But above all, over the years we have established a group of statisticians with roughly the same interests (not only in statistics) collaborating in a friendly atmosphere. All of this is very valuable and we thought that the best way to consolidate these achievements is to establish a Society. However, we realize that some of you might have wondered why a new society was/is necessary. Let me be clear, it is not our intention to compete with the large societies like RSS or ASA. Our main purpose was and is to create a framework which ensures that our activities will continue and that new people want to participate in it.

In Florence, I will have stepped down as chairman. This is not a sign of lack of interest, on the contrary. But I think that new blood is needed to keep a structure running for many years. So, I am hoping that many young statisticians will participate in our activities and have new ideas to further develop our Society.

The elections were quite successful, so that is a good sign. I wish the new chairman and the new team success in keeping the good spirit in our Society and in further developing our activities.

Emmanuel Lesaffre

2. Our Society. Aims and Objectives

The mission of the Society is to promote statistical modelling in its widest sense. Thus, the general aims of the Society indicate that it will:

- Promote statistical modelling as the general framework for the application of statistical ideas;
- Promote important developments, extensions, and applications in statistical modelling; and

- Bring together statisticians working on statistical modelling from various disciplines.

The general aims will be achieved through (although not limited to) the following activities:

- Promoting an annual statistical modelling workshop (International Workshop on Statistical Modelling, called the IWSM workshop);
- Promoting scientific publications on statistical modelling, such as the journal: “Statistical Modelling: An International Journal”;
- Supporting a research network of statisticians interested in statistical modelling;
- Organizing courses and focused workshops (Micro-workshops, tutorials, short courses, etcetera) on relevant topics in statistical modelling; and
- Promoting the exchange of ideas on statistical modelling via an electronic discussion forum.

Any person interested in joining the society can follow the instructions at <http://www.statmod.org>.

3. Focused Workshops

A series of focused workshops was previously, and very successfully, organized by Göran Kauermann (see <http://www.stat.uni-muenchen.de/euroworkshop/>), and actually, Göran Kauermann and Vicente Núñez-Antón are co-organizing a workshop centered on time to event analysis in Biostatistics, Economics and related fields. For more information, see <http://www.wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de/~kauermann/survival/survival.html>. Any member interested in organizing such events will surely obtain the support from the Society. In case somebody is interested, a more detailed information about this last workshop is included below:



Workshop 24. - 26. June 2004 in Bielefeld.

The ***Statistical Modelling Society*** is co-organising a Workshop on Time to Event Analysis in Biostatistics, Economics and Related Fields. The Workshop will take place in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF = Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre

Forschung) located at the University of Bielefeld, Germany. The ZiF is also the main funder of the project.

Topic: Time to event models, Duration models or Survival models, respectively, are a frequently used tool in biostatistics and econometrics. The field is of active research and the models in use have achieved an impressive high standard. Contrary, collaboration and interaction between statisticians working in bio- and clinical statistics on the one side and economics or business administration on the other side is less well developed. Today researchers from the two areas do not attend the same meetings, do not publish papers in the same journals and do not use the same software, even though they are tackling problems which have very much in common. The aim of the workshop is to work on this deficit by bringing together researchers from the different fields to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and research projects.

Invited Speakers (confirmed by 10.1.04): Gerard van den Berg, NL, Philip Hougaard, DK, and Hans van Houwelingen.

Participation: The number of participants is limited to 30 and participation is possible by invitation only. Interested researchers are asked contact one of the organizers: Göran Kauermann (gkauermann@wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de) or Vicente Núñez-Antón (etpnuanv@bs.ehu.es) to be included in the invitation list.

Young Researchers: For 10 Young Researchers free participation and free accommodation can be provided. Potential applicants should also contact one of the organizers.

4. The Journal. Statistical Modelling: An International Journal

Statistical Modelling: An International Journal is now in its fourth volume, and we are certainly proud to be recognized as the official journal of the *Statistical Modelling Society* – we hope that this will be the start of a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

We are also very pleased to report that the journal has already found some success, as it is now indexed by ISI (specifically: the Science Citation Index Expanded, ISI Alerting Services and the CompuMath Citation Index). We are delighted to have attained this status at this relatively early stage in our existence. Now as the society's official journal, we are well positioned to bring attention to an even wider audience, while ensuring the high standard of published papers.

For those of you who are new to experience the charm of the *Statistical Modelling* journal, we encourage to have a look at previous issues. Our aim for these volumes was to provide an interesting and informative selection of work in statistical modelling across a broad range of application areas and reflecting a diversity of methodological approaches. We hope you agree. Naturally, we have not covered everything that is going on in statistical modelling and there may be specific topics that may be of interest to readers. With this in mind, we are planning for the inclusion of some review or tutorial papers in future volumes. We already have a number of topics in mind, but would be very interested to receive suggestions for things that you might like to see covered. We encourage constructive input: it's your journal.

We would also like to remind you of the journal's website (<http://www.statmod.com> or <http://stat.uibk.ac.at/SMIJ/>) and the fact that it is our policy to put up data and, where appropriate, software for all of our published papers. We believe that this is an important resource for the dissemination of statistical modelling practice and methodology. The website also allows the provision of more detailed results or background information from published papers; such detailed information may not warrant journal space but may be of interest to the specialist reader. We are very keen to encourage the dual use of the printed paper and the web as complementary resources for scientific reporting and debate, and our goal is to have state-of-the-art facilities for this.

The journal's aim is to be the major resource for statistical modelling, covering both methodology and practice. Its goal is to be multidisciplinary in nature, promoting the cross-fertilization of ideas between substantive research areas, as well as providing a common forum for the comparison, unification and nurturing of modelling across different disciplines. We hope that you will continue to find this an efficient and attractive place to publish your work and look forward to receiving more submissions that demonstrate the power and diversity of statistical modelling.

Editors:

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Emmanuel Lesaffre (emmanuel.lesaffre@med.kuleuven.ac.be)

Brian Marx (bmarx@lsu.edu)

5. Present and Future Workshops

This year's workshop will take place in Florence, Italy from July 4 to July 8. Interested members can find more information on <http://www.ds.unifi.it/iwsm2004>. This year's workshop will offer a very interesting short course on "Generalized Linear Latent and Mixed Modelling" given by Anders Skrondal and Sophia Rabe-Hesketh (July 2-3, 2004). More information regarding the short course can be found at <http://www.ds.unifi.it/iwsm2004/short.html>. In addition, organizers are working actively to obtain the final list of very fine invited speakers.

The 20th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling - IWSM2005 will take place in Sydney, Australia (July 11-15, 2005) and will be hosted by the University of Western Sydney. The proposed location is the Swiss Grand Hotel which overlooks Bondi beach. This is the workshop's first visit to the Southern hemisphere, and workshop themes and invited speakers are being arranged at this moment. More details will be available soon. Members interested in additional details related to this workshop can contact Kenan Matawie (k.matawie@uws.edu.au) or Gordon Smyth (gks@maths.uq.edu.au). The Local organizing committee has been formed. However, more interested people would probably join this committee and, thus, it can be enlarged. Organizers are still discussing the scientific aspects of the workshop. However, Murray Aitkin and Ari Verbyla will definitely be on board as they have already agreed to contribute. The meeting would be probably, though not exclusively, centered on bioinformatics and financial modelling. At this stage organizers are still deciding about the short course for this workshop.

In addition, we would like to mention that among the possible locations for future workshops, we are considering proposals from Ireland, Portugal and Spain. We will keep you posted about this in future bulletins.

6. Short Courses possibilities

In order to try to promote short courses related to statistical modelling, some members of the society have decided to announce some of the courses they would be able to give and that, thus, could be consider as proposals within the short courses funding proposal the society is promoting. These course are:

- “**Smoothing for Smarties**” (Paul Eilers and Brian Marx)
- “**An Introduction to Bayesian Statistics with Applications in Biostatistics and Epidemiology**” (Emmanuel Lesaffre)
- “**Longitudinal and Incomplete Data**” (Geert Verbeke and Geert Molenberghs)
- “**Basics of Generalized Linear Models Using Stata and R**” (Brian Francis)

Members interested in finding out more details about these courses, can contact the secretary of the society at secretary@statmod.org. In addition, members interested in proposing a short course in area related to statistical modelling, can also send those proposals to the secretary.

7. Calendar of Events

- **June 24-26, 2004:** Workshop on time to event analysis in Biostatistics, Economics and related fields, Bielefeld, Germany (<http://www.wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de/~kauermann/survival/survival.html>).
- **July 4-8, 2004:** 19th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM19), Florence, Italy (<http://www.ds.unifi.it/iwsm2004>).
- **July 11-15, 2005:** 20th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM20), Sydney, Australia.

8. General Information about the Executive Committee

As we all know by now, the Statistical Modelling Society started to work as such in 2003. The seat of the society is in Amsterdam (The Netherlands), its official language is English and the actual members of its Executive Committee (EC) are Emmanuel Lesaffre (chair), Brian Francis (treasurer), Vicente Núñez-Antón (secretary), Göran Kauermann, Geert Verbeke, Brian Marx, John Hinde (representative from the working group for the journal), Gilg Seeber (representative from the working group for communications) and Giota Touloumi (representative from the working groups for the workshops).

The chair is stepping down this year but will stay for another two years (2004-2006) as past chair and as member of the EC. Brian Marx, Geert Verbeke and Göran Kauermann will end their terms as elected members next September. In October, Brian Marx will become the representative from the working group for the journal. Giota Touloumi is ending her term as representative from the working group for the workshops and she will be replaced by the member of this working group that is elected for this post at the Florence meeting. The actual members of the working group on workshops are Giota Touloumi, Geert Verbeke and Annibale Biggeri. Starting in October, Giota will be replaced as member of this group by Kenan Matawie. The new elected members, John

Hinde, Göran Kauermann (re-elected for another period), Lola Ugarte and Mikis Stasinopoulos, will remain as elected members of the EC for the period 2004-2006, starting their term in October 2004 and ending it in September 2006. Both the secretary and the treasurer will remain in their positions at least until September 2005.