

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

ANNUAL BULLETIN (2004-2005)

1. A few words from the chairman

It is now almost two years since the Society was first announced, following many years of work from a dedicated group of people. The vision was to create a body to ensure the continuation of existing activities in statistical modelling, namely the annual Workshop and the journal, to involve a wider group of people, and to foster new initiatives. So, how are we doing? Well with our trip to Sydney this year for the Workshop we are certainly looking further afield than our traditional home in Europe. Next year we return to Europe with the meeting being held in Galway, our first time in Ireland. And then it is on to Spain in 2007 – so the usual pattern of attractive venues and stimulating scientific programmes continues. The journal also involves people from across the world in terms of authors, editors and reviewers, see the report below. Where we need to make more progress is in involving more of you in Society and new activities. If you would like to contribute, or have suggestions for what you would like to see, then please email me with your ideas and expressions of interest.

I look forward to meeting many of you in Sydney and for those of you who are unable to make the trip, please remember to renew your membership – as well as helping to support the Society, you receive the journal Statistical Modelling at a much reduced rate. Reminders will be sent out in due course, or see the website www.statmod.org

For the future, please start making plans to come to Galway next year and don't forget that we will soon be holding elections for the Executive. So if you have good ideas, why not stand and put them into practice!

John Hinde

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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, etc) 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. Last year, Göran Kauermann and Vicente Núñez-Antón organized a workshop centered on time to event analysis in Biostatistics, Economics and related fields. For more information on the workshop and the papers presented therein, see <http://www.wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de/~kauermann/survival/survival.html>.

The Society is keen to offer any support it can to members who wish to organise such events; contact the Secretary at the planning stage to discuss this.

4. The Journal. Statistical Modelling: An International Journal

Statistical Modelling: An International Journal is now in its fifth volume, and in its second year as the official journal of the *Statistical Modelling Society*. You’ve helped us bring the journal to an even wider audience, while maintaining a flow of high quality published papers. As the journal is also in its second year of being indexed by the ISI, we see continued evidence of the journal’s positive influence on our discipline, as well as its growing and significant impact factor.

Since last year, we have had a partial rotation of associate editors. First, we’d like to thank the past service of: Robert Gilchrist, Alberto Luceño, Byron Morgan, Michael O’Connell, Bill Venables, Geert Verbeke, Ari Verbyla and Dale Zimmerman.

Additionally we'd like to welcome our newest associate editors: Brent Coull, Guadalupe Gómez, Stefan Lang, Brian Leroux, Vicente Núñez-Antón, Sophia Rabe Hesketh, Martin Ridout and Ronghui Lily Xu.

Remember that this is your journal, and we encourage your constructive input. We are interested in your feedback, as well as suggestions, perhaps for a tutorial or review paper in a future volume. For those of you who are new to experience *Statistical Modelling* or to our society, please do have a look at previous issues. We hope that you agree that our journal has an importance and unique niche, and provides 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 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.

As always, 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:

John Hinde (john.hinde@nuigalway.ie)

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

Brian Marx (bmarx@lsu.edu)

5. Present and Future Workshops

This year's workshop, IWSM2005- "Statistical Solutions to modern problems", will take place in Sydney, Australia from July 10 to July 15.

This workshop will offer a very interesting short course on "Mixed Models: A One day Tour" given by Ari Verbyla, Brian Cullis and Alison Smith (July 10, 2005). In addition, organizers have a fine list of confirmed invited speakers: Noel Cressie, Chris Glasbey, Sylvia Richardson, Simon Tavaré and Matt Wand.

The workshop will be conducted at the Swiss Grand at the world famous Bondi Beach in Sydney. There will be a half-day excursion cruising on Sydney Harbour affording spectacular views of the Opera House, Harbour Bridge and Darling Harbour.

Interested members can find additional information on:

<http://www.uws.edu.au/iwsm2005>

or

<http://sites.uws.edu.au/uws/conferences/statmodel2005/>

The 21th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling – IWSM2006 will take place in Galway, Ireland (July 2 – 6, 2006) and will be hosted by the National University of Ireland, Galway. The meeting will take place on the University campus which is on the edge of the city. As usual there will be a short course on the Sunday and a programme of invited and contributed papers. More details will be available soon, see the Society website for updated information, or contact John Hinde (john.hinde@nuigalway.ie), chair of the Local Organising Committee. For travel and tourism in Ireland see <http://www.ireland.ie/index.asp> and <http://www.galway.net/> for local information on Galway.

The 22nd International Workshop on Statistical Modelling – IWSM2007 will take place in Barcelona (Spain) and there is a proposal that we will be studying to organize the 23rd IWSM in Utrecht (The Netherlands).

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

- **July 10-15, 2005**: 20th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM19), Sydney, Australia (<http://sites.uws.edu.au/uws/conferences/statmodel2005/>).

- **July 2-6, 2006**: 21th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM20), Galway, Ireland.

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 John Hinde (chair), Brian Francis (treasurer), Vicente Núñez-Antón (secretary), Göran Kauermann, Mikis Stasinopoulos, Lola Ugarte, Emmanuel Lesaffre (past chair), Brian Marx (representative from the working group for the journal), Herwig Friedl (representative from the working group for communications) and Kenan Matawie (representative from the working groups for the workshops).

The last chair stepped down last year but will stay for another two years (2004-2006) as past chair and as member of the EC. John Hinde, Goeran Kauermann, Lola Ugarte and Mikis Stasinopoulos were elected as members of the EC and will stay in office for the period 2004-2006. John Hinde was elected chair for the period 2004-2006. Brian Francis and Vicente Núñez-Antón were re-elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively, and will stay in office and as members of the EC until September 2007. In October, 2004, Brian Marx became the representative from the working group for the journal. Kenan Matawie has been elected representative from the working group for the workshops and Herwig Friedl representative for the working group on communications. The actual members of the working group on workshops are Geert Verbeke, Annibale Biggeri and Kenan Matawie. The actual members of the working group on communications are Gilg Seeber, Brian Francis, Göran Kauermann and Herwig Friedl.