

Newsletter – February 2007

New Beginnings – a word from the outgoing Chairman

This Newsletter is to bring you up-to-date with what has been happening since many of us met at the IWSM in Galway back in July. With the Elections at the end of last year, we now have a new Executive Committee and Brian Marx (seen below in relaxed mode at Galway) is taking over as the Chairman. At Galway we also agreed some changes to the Society Statutes, in particular bringing the membership year in line with the calendar year. Last year also saw the sale of our journal **Statistical Modelling** from Arnold to Sage and also a new co-editor. All of these changes are described in more detail below, along with some information on past events and the important upcoming event, the 22nd IWSM meeting in Barcelona in July.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked with me over the last two years, in particular Vicente Núñez-Antón as Secretary and Brian Francis as Treasurer. We have had our successes – the IWSM continues to be a popular, high-quality international meeting (including our first meeting in the southern hemisphere), and the journal is becoming well-established and respected. Of course, there is much still to do and I wish the incoming committee well in their work to expand the societies activities, improve our publicity and marketing, and increase the membership. If you have any suggestions or wish to get involved, then I am sure that they would be delighted to hear from you – just send an email to secretary@statmod.org. The success of the Society depends upon the interest and support of the membership.

John Hinde

Executive Elections

Elections for a new Executive Committee to serve from January 2007 – December 2009 were held in November last year. We were delighted to have had so many excellent candidates and would like to thank everyone who agreed to stand. Since the election the Executive has elected its officers. The new committee is:

Brian Marx (USA) – Chairman
Herwig Friedl (Austria) – Secretary
Peter van der Heijden (The Netherlands) – Treasurer
John Hinde (Ireland) – Past-Chairman
Jim Booth (USA)
Iain Currie (United Kingdom)
Maria Durban (Spain)
Jutta Gampe (Germany)
John Newell (Ireland)

The Executive also has representatives from the four Working Groups – Workshops; Journal; Communications; Membership and Finance.

IWSM 2007: Barcelona 2-6 July

The meeting will take place in the Casa de Convalescència in Barcelona and it will be hosted by Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, with Pedro Puig as the main organizer. Barcelona is a fascinating city with a great cultural tradition and an architectural feast with the wonderful buildings of Gaudi and much more. It is also a place for a culinary feast (superb catalan cooking and wine) with just a little night-life to entertain you.

To rival this the organizers have lined up an impressive programme of invited speakers:

Susie Bayarri (Universitat de València)
George Casella (University of Florida)
Niels Keiding (University of Copenhagen)
Geert Molenberghs (Hasselt University)
Danny Pfeffermann (University of Southampton)
Simon Wood (University of Bath)



And in the true tradition of the Workshop I am sure that the contributed programme of talks and posters will be equally excellent. If you want to present, there is still just time to get something in:

deadline for abstracts is **9 February!**

And for students, please remember that you have the possibility to compete for the **Best IWSM 2007 Student Paper**, for the **Best IWSM 2007 Student Presentation** and for the **Best IWSM 2007 Student Poster** awards – see the website for information on these competitions.

For more details see:

<http://mat.uab.es/~iws2007/>

Membership

The Society membership year has now been brought into line with the calendar year and also with the Journal subscription year (members always received the volume of the journal of the year in which they paid). This means that all 2006 memberships fell due for renewal at the start of 2007. An improved system for membership renewal and payment is a top priority of the incoming Executive.

There are two ways to renew membership (and indeed to join for any non-members reading this newsletter):

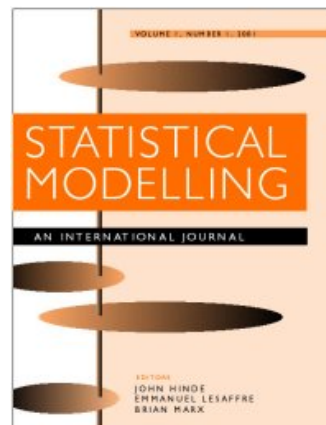
- from the Society website www.statmod.com
- or
- by registering as a participant at the IWSM (members who are already paid up in any year will receive a corresponding reduction in their IWSM registration fee)

Full (non-student) members will receive the 2007 volume of Statistical Modelling.

Ensure your continued membership by registering for IWSM 2007 or filling in the web membership form.

Statistical Modelling – Journal News

Statistical Modelling has now embarked on its seventh year, with now well over 100 published articles since the 2000 launch; moreover it is now in the fourth year as the official journal of the Statistical Modelling Society. Currently listed on the ISI Web of Knowledge, our journal has an impact factor of nearly 0.6, which, for example, is very close to that of Applied Statistics: we see continued evidence of the journal's positive influence on our discipline. We have had a consistent acceptance rate of approximately 30% and are very proud of our average turn-around of approximately two months.



This last year Statistical Modelling has seen many changes. First off, we now have a new publisher: SAGE Publications. We hope for a fruitful relationship, and there already appears some great promise getting our journal into consortia deals, thus expanding our worldwide presence even further across university libraries. Additionally, we welcome Herwig Friedl (Technical University, Graz), now already finishing up his first year, as editor. Starting from 2007, Jeffrey Simonoff (New York University) also joins as editor. These two replace our initiating editors, Emmanuel Lesaffre and John Hinde, who are both indeed responsible for the launch and high quality of the journal. Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication, and vision. Our advisory board has also seen some change: Hans van Houwelingen, John Nelder, and Louise Ryan have stepped down after five years of service. We thank Hans, John and Louise and welcome Philip Hougaard, Emmanuel Lesaffre and John Hinde who have agreed to serve as their replacements. Lastly we welcome our newest associate editor, Simon Wood (University of Bath).

The journal has seen four special issues. Our most recent one is on Correlated Data Modelling in Volume 6(2). We wholeheartedly thank our guest associate editors Gilbert MacKenzie and Dario Gregori for their help coordinating and publishing this work. On the horizon we have more exciting special issues: Interval Censoring (Lupe Gomez Melis), Nonparametric Bayesian Analysis (Fernando Quintana and Peter Mueller); Quantile Regression (Pin Ng).

Remember that this is your journal, and we encourage your constructive input and support (www.statmod.com).

Brian Marx
Editor

IWSM 2006 – Galway

As many of you will have attended the meeting there is no need for a long account of this, the 21st of our annual event. It maintained the usual high-standard both scientifically and socially. The meeting kicked off with an excellent short course from **Ernst Wit** on **Statistics for Microarrays: a one day tour**. The main programme included wide-ranging talks from the five invited speakers

Gerda Claeskens (K U Leuven, Belgium)

- *On Focussed and Less Focussed Model Selection*

Garrett Fitzmaurice (Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA)

- *Methods for Handling Dropout in Longitudinal Data Analysis*

John Haslett (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)

- *Bayesian Palaeoclimate Reconstruction*

Leonhard Held (LMU, Munich, Germany)

- *Quantitative assessment of probabilistic forecasts with applications in epidemiology*

Byron Morgan (University of Kent, UK)

- *New methods for including covariates in models for the survival of wild animals.*

and some wonderful contributed talks on topics ranging across all areas of statistical modelling.



The student presentations were of the usual high-standard and the judges had a tough job in selecting the **Student Prize Winners**:

Sarah Barry (Glasgow): *Longitudinal models for shape data*

Cécile Proust (Bordeaux): *A nonlinear latent class model for joint analysis of multiple longitudinal outcomes and a clinical event*

Sonja Greven (Munich): *Additive mixed models with P-splines*

John Maringwa (Hasselt): *Analysis of a cardiovascular safety experiment with longitudinal data using penalized smoothing splines*



The poster session also proved an enjoyable event with many interesting and well-prepared posters. From the participants ballot, prizes for the **Best Posters** were awarded to:

R Dahyot (Dublin): *Bayesian inferences for object detection*

W Rea, M Reale, C Cappelli & J Brown (Canterbury, NZ & Naples): *Identification of level shifts in stationary processes*

S Cakmak, W Li, C Blanco, M Fernandez & R Burnett (Ottawa & Santiago, Chile): *A measure of progress in air quality management: air health indicator*

In the usual tradition of the workshop there was plenty of time for mixing, at receptions, the conference dinner, and the Wednesday afternoon excursion to Connemara. Needless to say the sun shone most of the time – it was Ireland! Some of the participants were even tempted into the Atlantic for a swim, while others went for a walk and found some much needed refreshment, statistically justified as at least Student (Gossett) worked for Guinness.



Other Society supported/related events:

Methodological Issues In Oral Health Research: Assessing and Improving Data Quality

This meeting in April 19-21, 2006, Ghent, Belgium was organized to:(1) establishing an overview of methods to improve the design of oral health studies as well as the quality of questionnaire and clinical data; (2) establishing an overview of the statistical methods which take into account measurement error/misclassification in oral health data; (3) enhancing the communication between oral health researchers and statisticians.

Invited Speakers were: Dominique Declerck & Emmanuel Lesaffre (U. of Leuven, Belgium), Jocelyne Feine (McGill U., Canada), Finbarr Allen (U. of Cork, Ireland), Nigel Pitts (U. of Dundee, UK), H. Kuechenhoff (U. of Munich, Germany).

Emmanuel Lesaffre

IBC XXIII Satellite Meeting: Statistical and Epidemiological Methods for Oral Health Research, Montréal, Canada

This meeting was aimed at statisticians active in oral health research or oral health researchers with a good background and a strong interest in biostatistical methods. However, the meeting was of interest to all who are interested in modeling complex data. Indeed, the topics that were treated appear in many other medical application areas. However, in oral health research they seem to meet each other.

The program consisted of five tutorials on topics that cover a large part of statistical issues relevant to oral health research. The tutorials addressed both types of researchers and hence they started with relatively basic material. However, the core material was somewhat more advanced. Further, the tutorials had an applied flavor and the statistical methods were illustrated with various dental examples (periodontal, amalgam filling, endodontic restoration, implantation, caries, edentulism, etc). The tutorials were given by:

Melissa Begg (Columbia, US), Niels Keiding (Copenhagen, Denmark) and Thomas Gerds (Freiburg, Germany), Gary Slade (Adelaide, Australia), Helmut Küchenhoff (Munich, Germany), Amy Anderson (North Carolina, US).

Emmanuel Lesaffre

METMA3 – International Workshop on Spatio-Temporal Modelling

On September 27-29, 2006, a workshop was held at the Public University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain, to address the latest methodological developments and applications on spatio-temporal modelling. Chaired by Lola Ugarte, executive member of the Statistical Modelling Society, the workshop was composed of a panel of 14 experts in spatio-temporal modelling applied to a variety of fields. Other participants were delegates from more than twenty different countries, 120 delegates in total. The opening conference was given by Noel Cressie about "Processing Satellite Data". There were specific sessions on spatio-temporal disease mapping (with Sylvia Richardson, Ying MacNab, Andrew Lawson, Juanjo Abellán and Charmaine Dean – as a very alive discussant-) as well as sessions on geostatistics (with Marc Genton, Wenceslao González Manteiga, and Jorge Mateu), and point processes (with Eric Renshaw, among others) . A very interesting application on counting seals in Alaska was presented by Jay Ver Hoef. María Durbán, Youngjo Lee and Lola Ruiz-Medina completed the list of invited speakers with very interesting talks.

A detailed scientific programme can be found at:

<http://www.unavarra.es/metma3>

Abstracts can be downloaded from the above web site. Although there is a book of proceedings, a especial issue of the journal *Environmetrics* will be also devoted to the contents of the workshop.

The workshop was sponsored by the Statistical Modelling Society and several Spanish organisms like the Public University of Navarra, the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science, the Government of Navarra (Departments of Education and Health Sciences), the Statistical Institute of Navarra, The Statistical Institute of the Basque Country – EUSTAT, the City Council of Pamplona, the City Council of Viana, and the company Addlink Scientific Software.

Lola Ugarte

Other Forthcoming Events of Interest

International Society for Clinical Biostatistics: 28th Annual Conference, 29 July-2 August 2007

<http://www.iscb2007.gr/>

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee, we warmly invite you to participate in the 28th annual conference of the ISCB which will be held from 29 July-2 August 2007 at the Thraki Palace Hotel and Conference Centre in Alexandroupolis, Greece.

Alexandroupolis is situated at the northeast point of Greece and is an important gateway between the European Union countries and those of the Mediterranean, Asia-Minor and the Black Sea. The conference centre is situated in a new deluxe hotel located on a wonderful beach at the west end of Alexandroupolis and only 9 km from the Alexandroupolis' airport.

This will be the first time that the ISCB conference has taken place in Greece and the Medical Schools of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and of the Democritus University of Thrace are proud to be the host institutions for ISCB 2007.

The Local Organising Committee and the Scientific Programme Committee are working hard to set up an interesting programme that meets the demands of present day clinical biostatistics. We are very pleased to invite you to join the 400 international participants we are expecting at the conference. All participants are encouraged to submit abstracts for ISCB 2007.

We look forward to seeing you in Alexandroupolis at what promises to be a very rewarding and stimulating event! Hope to meet you then.

Giota Touloumi
Chair, Local Organising Committee

CASI 2007: May 15-17 2007 at Dundrum House Hotel, Tipperary, Ireland

<http://www.ul.ie/casi2007>

This is the annual Conference on Statistics in Ireland held under the aegis of the Irish Statistical Association, ISA. The conference is gaining International recognition as the major forum in Ireland for discussing developments in Statistics.

The 2007 conference is being organised by the Centre of Biostatistics, Limerick University, and we have attracted an excellent platform of keynote speakers:

David Clayton (Genetics)
Peter Green (Complexity)
Wally Gilks (Bioinformatics)
Andrea Rotnitsky (Missingness)
Victor Kiri (Comorbidity Studies)

Please browse the site and think of adding CASI to your conference diary in 2007.

Gilbert MacKenzie

WCDM 2007: June 20th-22th 2007, UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK , Ireland

<http://www.ul.ie/wcdm07/>

This is the 3rd International Workshop on Correlated Data Modelling. The first workshop was held in Trieste in 1999 and the second was held in Torino in 2004 . The theme of this Workshop is ***Challenges in Modelling Correlated Data***.

Both previous workshops were enormously successful, strengthening statistical science in the area, and leading to the publication of two handsome volumes of Workshop Proceedings by Franco Angeli (Milan). Six selected papers from the Torino workshop appeared in a special volume of the International Journal of Statistical Modelling.

This is the first time that the workshop has come to Ireland. We hope you will browse the site and consider attending this prestigious event.

Gilbert MacKenzie

To keep up-to-date with the Society visit the website

<http://www.statmod.org>

and don't forget to renew your membership!

See you in Barcelona!