

# BIOMETRIC BULLETIN

International Biometric Society Internationale Biometrische Gesellschaft Société Internationale de Biométrie

*"Biometry, the active pursuit of biological knowledge by quantitative methods."* - R.A. Fisher, 1948

## President's Corner



The first quarter of 2023 has flown by quickly, with many activities taking place at the IBS and across its regions. I hope the change of seasons has been beautiful and inspiring in whatever part of the world you live

in. With so much difficult news we are bombarded with daily, taking time to enjoy the beautiful transitions of nature can be refreshing and re-energizing.

The seven new members joining the Executive Board (EB) this year have been quickly getting up to speed, already participating in an orientation call and the first EB meeting of the year. They have also been assigned ex-officio roles across the various IBS standing committees, replacing the outgoing EB members. The EB will be meeting in-person later this year, during the meeting of the Central European Network (CEN), which will be held September 3-7, in Basel, Switzerland.

The International Business Office (IBO) is in the final stages of preparation for making the 80+ hours of recorded material from last year's IBC available for viewing on-demand by those who were unable to join us in Riga, Latvia. The videos will still be available free of charge for meeting attendees, and for a (reasonable) fee for IBS and non-IBS members who did not attend. An announcement on the availability of the material, with instructions on how to access it, will be provided separately by the IBO.

Preparations for IBC2024 are continuing at a steady pace. A highly productive site visit to Buenos Aires took place in early February, when I was joined by Peter Doherty (IBS Executive Director), Alexander Iula (IBO representative), Jenna Beak (MCI representative), and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) co-chairs, Maria Gabriela Cendoya and Silvia Sühling (both from the Argentinean Region). We were able to identify three potential venues for the conference (two hotels and a convention center), for which additional cost information has been obtained. We are hoping to finalize the choice of the conference site in the next few weeks, with an announcement to the IBS membership following shortly thereafter. The dates of the meeting have been finalized: from Sunday, Dec 01 to Friday, Dec 06, 2024. (IBC meetings held in the southern hemisphere take place in December.) During the trip to Buenos Aires, we also visited several potential sites for the social events (e.g., Gala Dinner, Young Statisticians Reception, etc.); the determination of these will need to be made after the final selection of the conference venue. Calls for invited sessions and short courses have already gone out, with submission deadlines set for June 20, in both cases.

A review committee issued a request for proposal (RFP) for a potential new publisher for Biometrics. Chair of the committee and Executive Editor Geert Molenberghs (Belgian Region), has made great progress and the committee is in the last stages of making its final selection. Once the work of the committee is completed, its recommendation will be approved by the Executive Board and the parties involved will be notified, then a communication will

*Continued on p. 3*

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Corner .....	1
Region Key .....	2
From the Editor .....	3
Cameroon Leadership Achieves Official IBS Region Status .....	4
International Biometric Conference 2024 News - Save These Dates .....	4
Editorial Updates .....	4
The Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES) .....	6
STrengthening Analytical Thinking for Observational Studies (STRATOS): Introducing the Open Science Panel ...	8
Region News .....	10
* Australasian Region (AR) .....	10
* Brazilian Region (RBras) .....	10
* Cameroon .....	10
* Central American Caribbean Region (RCAC) .....	11
* Eastern North American Region (ENAR) .....	11
* French Region (FR) .....	12
* Indian Region (IR) .....	12
* Italian Region (RIt) .....	14
* Japanese Region (JR) .....	14
* The Netherlands (BMS-ANed) ...	14
* Polish Region (GPol) .....	15
* Western North American Region (WNAR) .....	16
Announcements & Upcoming Events ...	16
Get Connected .....	17

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## Region Key

### Regions

RArg - Argentinean Region  
AR - Australasian Region  
ROeS - Austro-Swiss Region  
RBe - Belgian Region  
GBot - Botzwanian Region  
RBras - Brazilian Region  
BIR - British and Irish Region  
RCAC - Central American-Caribbean Region  
GCI - Chilean Region  
GCMr - Cameroon Region  
CHINA - Chinese Region  
EMR - Eastern Mediterranean Region  
ENAR - Eastern North American Region  
ECU - Ecuadorian Region  
GEth - Ethiopian Region  
RF - French Region  
DR - German Region  
GGha - Ghanian Region  
IR - Indian Region  
RItl - Italian Region  
JR - Japanese Region  
GKe - Kenyan Region  
RKO - Korean Region  
GMal - Malawi Region  
GNI - Nigerian Region  
NR - Nordic-Baltic Region  
PKSTAN - Pakistani Region  
GPol - Polish Region  
GRo - Romanian Region  
SING - Singaporean Region  
GSaf - South African Region  
REsp - Spanish Region  
ANed - The Netherlands Region  
GUGan - Ugandan Region  
WNAR - Western North American Region  
GZim - Zimbabwean Region

### Networks

CEN - Central European Network  
CN - Channel Network  
EAR - East Asian Network  
SUSAN - Sub-Saharan Network

# President's Corner

Continued from p. 1

be sent to the IBS membership. The contract with the current publisher, Wiley, ends at the end of this year, with the new publisher (if different from Wiley) taking over on Jan 01, 2024. Also, with regard to Biometrics, I am delighted to report that Geert Molenberghs has been re-appointed for another three-year term as Executive Editor (starting Jan 01, 2024), after unanimous and enthusiastic approval from all who were asked to vote (the EB, Editorial Advisory Committee and IBS Officers). Many thanks to Geert for agreeing to serve for another term and for the wonderful job he has done at the helm of our flagship publication. One last piece of great news related to Biometrics is the selection of the journal's new co-editor, who will be replacing Bill Rosenberg (ENAR) at the end of his three-year term, at the end of this year: Erica Moodie (ENAR), from McGill University. Congratulations to Erica on her new important role with the journal and many thanks to Bill for his wonderful service as co-editor of *Biometrics*.

I am delighted to report the establishment of a new Cameroon Region of the IBS, which has been just approved by the EB. This is the first time a new IBS region has been formed since the founding of the Tanzanian Region back in 2017. The initiative to establish the Cameroon Region was spearheaded by Dr. Yankam Brenda (who will serve as its first president), with mentorship and support from Prof. Jim Todd, who played a pivotal role in the creation of the

Tanzanian Region. The new Cameroon Region already starts with over twenty members and a strong connection to the Sub-Saharan African Network (SUSAN). A warm welcome from the rest of the IBS to our Cameroon Region colleagues.

Prof. C.R. Rao has just been announced as the 2023 winner of the International Prize in Statistics (IPS), for his seminal contributions to statistics for more than eight decades. The IPS is jointly sponsored by five leading international statistics societies, including IBS, and is awarded every two years. The award ceremony for Prof. Rao will be held during the upcoming World Statistics Congress in Ottawa, Canada.

On a closing note, I'd like to congratulate the Eastern North American Region (ENAR) of the Society on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. As the first region of the IBS to be formed, ENAR's milestone comes just one year after IBS' own 75th anniversary. I was delighted to attend this year's ENAR Spring conference, during which several celebratory events were held to mark the milestone anniversary.

**José Pinheiro**  
International Biometric Society President  
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## From the Editor

The fact that the *Biometric Bulletin* of IBS has just entered in its fortieth year would probably attract the members' visiting IBS website to refer to Issue-1 of Vol 1 of the Bulletin. The interesting background information as well its founding structure details are available in this first issue of the Bulletin, published in the month May 1984. It seems the idea of launching a Bulletin was mooted by then IBS President Prof Herbert A David with unlimited support from the entire Executive Committee. As a result of the consistent efforts made during his tenure in early eighties by the Treasurer, Jonas Ellenberg, IBS had achieved a healthy financial status also remarkably with its membership grown to some 6,000 strength. This was considered the best opportunity for venturing into the long due requirement of IBS Bulletin, being somewhat more than a Newsletter, to ensure better communication amongst the large groups of members. The credit also goes to the very first editor of the Bulletin, Robert O Kuehl, for his creative ability and vision. We, the team of subsequent Editors, have been trying our best in adding periodic flavours to enrich the Bulletin in its present shape. I, on behalf of all the executives and the members, must convey our gratitude to each one of them for their respective contributions over the past long years of successful journey of the *Biometric Bulletin*.

We feel gratified and are proud to learn about an added award and recognition to be bestowed on Prof. C R Rao, who basically belongs to IBS(IR) and had served as IBS President decades ago. We would be celebrating his 103rd Birthday in September 2023, in a grand manner across the countries around the globe. The news of continuance for another term of three years by Geert Molenberghs, as the Executive-Editor of *Biometrics*, is great in favour of the one of the

most established Journals of the Society and also gives an opportunity of congratulating each other on this academic front.

This issue of the *Bulletin* is once again enriched by the Editorial updates from *Biometrics* and *JABES*. The topics of some 40 articles identified for the upcoming September issue of *Biometrics* as well those of *JABES* are quite enthusiastic for statistical academics. Furthermore, the three special issues on highly professionalised themes proposed by *JABES* are challenging invitation for the interested members. Though, just for a change this time we have to miss Software corner, the information in this issue about the newly formed Open Science Panel by STRATOS to promote open science practices would certainly prove its relevance and utility in coming years.

The regional updates by the respective correspondents routinely cover the regional meetings and executive information. However, this issue touches upon some young talents as well established personalities of some regions that would serve good for the motivation of the others. We welcome the formation of Cameroon region and congratulate its lead team of office bearers with request to actively participate in various programmes of the society and ensure periodic reporting to BB.

**Ajit Sahai**  
Biometric Bulletin, Editor

# Cameroon Leadership Achieves Official IBS Region Status

As many of our members understand, our Society progresses and improves because of the involvement of its members. But it is also important to remember that we are a Society of Regions, and our Regions' leadership is also tremendously important to the Society's development. From time to time, we strive to establish Regions in new, geographically defined areas. We are thrilled to announce that, following substantial work behind the scenes by some of our colleagues in Cameroon, and a recent vote by the Executive Board on 27 March, a new Cameroon Region of the Society has been established.

Professionals and students in Cameroon are now eligible to join the IBS as joint Region/Society members. IBS staff will prepare a Region information page soon, so that other members may learn more about this new Region. That page may very well be available by the time you read this article. Also, we look forward to the next *Biometric Bulletin* when the Region's leadership is expected to offer a special welcome on behalf of the new Cameroon Region. Those attending the upcoming 18th Biennial IBS-SUSAN Conference in September will also have an opportunity to congratulate some of our new Cameroon Region members there.

Congratulations to our friends in Cameroon! The governing documents of the new Region are available for review at the Society's office, the International Business Office (or IBO).

**Peter Doherty, CAE**  
Executive Director

## International Biometric Conference 2024 News - Save These Dates



The 32nd International Biometric Conference (IBC2024) promises to be something special! Expected dates for the conference are from **1-6 December 2024**. Buenos Aires, Argentina is the approved location for this IBC. Make the journey to Buenos Aires, and you will experience a diverse program built by IBS member statisticians, mathematicians, biological scientists, students, and oth-

ers devoted to interdisciplinary efforts in advancing the collection and interpretation of information in the biosciences.

Hosted by the Argentinean Region of the IBS, we look forward to an exciting social program that will introduce you to the very best that the country has to offer, and we thank our local organizers for their efforts thus far. In addition, past IBC attendees will note that, regardless of where the conference is held, the International Biometric Conference affords everyone an opportunity for a mid-week break from scientific programming. Tours and excursions on Wednesday will take you to wonderful areas of the city and surrounding countryside, where memories are sure to be made. Check out our inspirational video [here](#).

Remember that **Short Course and Invited Session proposals are due by 20 June**. Start the Invited Session submission process by visiting <https://ibc2024.abstractcentral.com/login>. You may access the Short Course Proposal Form [here](#). Invited Session proposals are submitted online, while Short Course proposals are to be sent via e-mail to [kopp@dkfz-heidelberg.de](mailto:kopp@dkfz-heidelberg.de), with a copy to the International Biometric Office (IBO) at [conference@biometricsociety.org](mailto:conference@biometricsociety.org)

**Peter Doherty, CAE**  
Executive Director

## Editorial Updates

### Biometrics

#### September 2023 Issue Highlights

- The September issue contains a broad range of Biometric Methodology papers, including:
- "Domain selection and family-wise error rate for functional data: a unified framework," by Konrad Abramowicz, Alessia Pini, Lina Schelin, Sara Sjøstedt de Luna, Aymeric Stamm, and Simone Vantini;
- "Robust approach to combining multiple markers to improve surrogacy," by Xuan Wang, Layla Parast, Larry Han, Lu Tian, and Tianxi Cai;
- "Model-based clustering of high-dimensional longitudinal data via regularization," by Luoying Yang and Tong Tong Wu;
- "Robust Bayesian variable selection for gene-environment interactions," by Jie Ren, Fei Zhou, Xiaoxi Li, Shuangge Ma, Yu Jiang, and Cen Wu;
- "Coherent modeling of longitudinal causal effects on binary outcomes," by Linbo Wang, Xiang Meng, Thomas Richardson, and James Robins;
- "A cross-validation statistical framework for asymmetric data integration," by Lam Tran, Kevin He, Di Wang, and Hui Jiang;
- "Exact-corrected confidence interval for risk difference in noninferiority binomial trials," by Nour Hawila and Arthur Berg;
- "An Eigenvalue ratio approach to inferring population structure from whole genome sequencing data," by Yuyang Xu, Zhonghua Liu, and Jianfeng Yao;
- "Power analysis for cluster randomized trials with continuous co-primary endpoints," by Siyun Yang, Mirjam Moerbeek, Monica Taljaard, and Fan Li;
- "Closed testing with Globaltest, with application in metabolomics," by Ningning Xu, Aldo Solari, and Jelle J. Goeman;



- “Efficient and robust methods for causally interpretable meta-analysis: transporting inferences from multiple randomized trials to a target population,” by Issa J. Dahabreh, Sarah E. Robertson, Lucia C. Petito, Miguel A. Hernan, and Jon A. Steingrimsdottir;
  - “Nonparametric inverse probability weighted estimators based on the highly adaptive lasso,” by Ashkan Ertefaie, Nima S. Hejazi, and Mark J. van der Laan;
  - “It’s all relative: regression analysis with compositional predictors,” by Gen Li, Yan Li, and Kun Chen;
  - “Post-treatment confounding in causal mediation studies: A cutting-edge problem and a novel solution via sensitivity analysis,” by Guanglei Hong, Fan Yang, and Xu Qin;
  - “Structural cumulative survival models for estimation of treatment effects accounting for treatment switching in randomized experiments,” by Andrew Ying and Eric J. Tchetgen Tchetgen;
  - “Elastic analysis of irregularly or sparsely sampled curves,” by Lisa Steyer, Almond Stocker, and Sonja Greven;
  - “Subset selection for linear mixed models,” by Daniel R. Kowal;
  - “General independent censoring in event-driven trials with staggered entry,” by Jasmin Ruhl, Jan Beyersmann, and Sarah Friedrich;
  - “A general framework for subgroup detection via one-step value difference estimation,” by Dana Johnson, Wenbin Lu, and Marie Davidian;
  - “Nonparametric inference of general while-alive estimands for recurrent events,” by Lu Mao;
  - “Dimension reduction for integrative survival analysis,” by Aaron J. Molstad and Rohit K. Patra;
  - “Pair-switching rerandomization,” by Ke Zhu and Hanzhong Liu;
  - “Concordance indices with left-truncated and right-censored data,” by Nicholas Hartman, Sehee Kim, Kevin He, and John D. Kalbfleisch;
  - “Solutions for surrogacy validation with longitudinal outcomes for a gene therapy,” by Emily K. Roberts, Michael R. Elliott, and Jeremy M. G. Taylor;
  - “Grouped generalized estimating equations for longitudinal data analysis,” by Tsubasa Ito and Shonosuke Sugawara;
  - “Double reduction estimation and equilibrium tests in natural autopolyploid populations,” by David Gerard;
  - “A robust approach for electronic health record-based case-control studies with contaminated case pools,” by Guorong Dai, Yanyuan Ma, Jill Schnall, Jinbo Chen, and Raymond J. Carroll;
  - “Quantile regression for nonignorable missing data with its application of analyzing electronic medical records,” by Aiai Yu, Yujie Zhong, Xingdong Feng, and Ying Wei;
  - “Tractable Bayes of skew-elliptical link models for correlated binary data,” by Zhongwei Zhang, Reinaldo B. Arellano-Valle, Marc G. Genton, and Raphael Huser;
  - “Optimal multiple testing and design in clinical trials,” by Ruth Heller, Abba Krieger, and Saharon Rosset;
  - “A novel penalized inverse-variance weighted estimator for Mendelian randomization with applications to COVID-19 outcomes,” by Siqi Xu, Peng Wang, Wing Kam Fung, and Zhonghua Liu;
  - “Testing weak nulls in matched observational studies,” by Colin B. Fogarty;
  - “Mendelian randomization mixed-scale treatment effect robust identification and estimation for causal inference,” by Zhonghua Liu, Ting Ye, Baoluo Sun, Mary Schooling, and Eric Tchetgen Tchetgen;
  - “Integrative Bayesian models using post-selective inference: a case study in radiogenomics,” by Snigdha Panigrahi, Shariq Mohammed, Arvind Rao, and Veerabhadran Baladandayuthapani;
  - “Estimating tree-based dynamic treatment regimes using observational data with restricted treatment sequences,” by Nina Zhou, Lu Wang, and Daniel Almirall.
- Also the Biometric Practice section of the journal boasts a fine collection of papers, among others:**
- “An alternative metric for evaluating the potential Patient benefit of response-adaptive randomization procedures,” by Jennifer Proper and Thomas A. Murray;
  - “A Bayesian model with application for adaptive platform trials having temporal changes,” by Chenguang Wang, Min Lin, Gary L. Rosner, and Guoxing Soon;
  - “Simplifying the estimation of diagnostic testing accuracy over time for high specificity tests in the absence of a gold standard,” by Clara Drew, Moses Badio, Dehkontee Dennis, Lisa Hensley, Elizabeth Higgs, Michael Sneller, Mosoka Fallah, and Cavan Reilly;
  - “A Bayesian functional data model for surveys collected under informative sampling with application to mortality estimation using NHANES,” by Paul A. Parker and Scott H. Holan;
  - “Flexible copula model for integrating correlated multi-omics data from single-cell experiments,” by Zichen Ma, Shannon W. Davis, and Yen-Yi Ho;
  - “Semiparametric distributed lag quantile regression for modeling time-dependent exposure mixtures,” by Yuyan Wang, Akhgar Ghassabian, Bo Gu, Yelena Afnansyeva, Yiwei Li, Leonardo Trasande, and Mengling Liu;
  - “Multi-wave validation sampling for error-prone electronic health records,” by Bryan E. Shepherd, Kyunghye Han, Tong Chen, Aihua Bian, Shannon Pugh, Stephany N. Duda, Thomas Lumley, William J. Heerman, and Pamela A. Shaw;
  - “Infinite hidden Markov models for multiple multivariate time series with missing data,” by Lauren Hoskovec, Matthew D. Koslovsky, Kirsten Koehler, Nicholas Good, Jennifer L. Peel, John Volckens, and Ander Wilson;
  - “Prioritizing candidate peptides for cancer vaccines through predicting peptide presentation by HLA-I proteins,” by Laura Y. Zhou, Fei Zou, and Wei Sun;
  - “Neural network on interval censored data with application to the prediction of Alzheimer’s Disease,” by Tao Sun and Ying Ding;
  - “Bayesian treatment screening and selection using subgroup-specific utilities of response and toxicity,” by Juhee Lee, Peter F. Thall, and Pavlos Msaouel; and
  - “Delivering spatially comparable inference on the risks of multiple severities of respiratory disease from spatially misaligned disease count data,” by Duncan Lee and Craig Anderson.

## 2024 – 2026 Co-editor identified

The search committee to identify a successor for Co-Editor Bill Rosenberger, whose term will end 31 December 2023, is delighted to report that Erica E.M. Moodie has accepted the nomination for Biometrics Co-editor 2024 - 2026. Given that Bill is the North American Co-editor, Erica comes from the same constituency. Erica is an ENAR member and Professor at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The search committee consisted of Geert Molenberghs, Biometrics Executive Editor, Chair (Belgian Region); Bill Rosenberger, Biometrics CE (ENAR); Matthew Schofield, Biometrics CE (Australasian Region); Katja Ickstadt, Biometrics CE

(German Region); Hans-Peter Piepho, EAC Chair (German Region); Rebecca Hubbard (ENAR); Liliana Lopez Kleine (Central American & Caribbean Region); Ruth King (British & Irish Region). Erica's nomination was ratified by the Editorial Advisory Committee and the Executive Board.

### Associate Editor Panel Turnover

The panel of Associate Editors is composed of colleagues who each serve two-year terms. This means that every 1 July a number of them end their terms. The Co-Editors are in the process of inviting new Associate Editors to replace colleagues retiring. Incoming Associate Editors are chosen to replace expertise lost by retiring Associate Editors, as well as to fill in gaps in expertise in certain areas, especially in emerging and expanding fields. It is the aim to maintain the panel's size at about 100 members, starting 1 July 2023.

### Biometrics Editorial Board Meetings

Since 2020, the traditional face-to-face Editorial Board meetings – one during JSM and one every other year during IBC – have been replaced by two online meetings. Last year, there was an additional face-to-face meeting during the IBC2022 in Riga, Latvia. Because 2023 is a non-IBC year, there will be two virtual meetings: July 7, 2023, and August 21, 2023. They will be held at different times during the day, to ensure that in every part of the world at least one of them takes place at a convenient time. Over the past few years, these online meetings have been well attended and we hope to continue this positive trend. In 2024, there will be an additional board meeting during the IBC2024 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Geert Molenberghs**  
Biometrics Executive Editor

# The Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES)

There are a number of actions that are taking place during the first two quarters of 2023. We have now opened the following three special issues with related information and open calls published at <https://www.springer.com/journal/13253/updates>

a) Special Issue on **The Hawkes Process: Theory, Methodology, Algorithms, Extension, and Applications in Environmental Sciences**. Point process models are common in research as a natural tool to describe the patterns of discrete events that occur in a continuous space, time, or a space–time domain. In recent decades, the Hawkes point-process model, which was proposed by Alan G. Hawkes in the 1970s, has become one of the most useful point processes in event-type data analysis, such as earthquakes, crimes, forest fires, terrorist attacks, society networks, genomes, etc., due to its powers in detecting the clustering effect and the positive interactions among individual events/particles. Equipped with the Hawkes process and general statistical inference tools, we can determine the potential causal relationship among discrete events, especially for nowadays, with the rapid development of observation and data-storage technologies, big data has unavoidably become a hot issue in point-pro-

cess data analysis. As the Hawkes process provides us with a quick tool and general framework to quantify and forecast the clustering or the triggering effect among events, it is important for us to develop more advanced theory, methodology and algorithms related to this process and its extensions, so that we can solve the challenging problems that are encountered in its applications. **Guest Editors: Jorge Mateu, Jiancang Zhuang, Feng Chen, Rick Schoenberg**

**Deadline for submission: 15 July 2023**

b) Special Issue on **Spatial Statistics in Forestry**. Forest science has applied numerous methods for statistical analysis of forestry problems, including aspects related to physiology, ecology, biology, genetics, hydrology, disturbances, soils and nutrient cycling, forest health, wildlife, climate change, biometrics/inventory, silviculture, forest operations, forest management, forest economics and forest biomass utilization, between others. Nowadays, forest sciences has incorporated spatial elements to better understand patterns and structures behind a broad spectrum of forest aspects related to forest ecosystems, and resources, forest ecology and biology, and forest conservation and management. This general approach of forest problems can be analysed considering the three main type of spatial data, namely, geostatistical data, lattice data and spatial point patterns. The development of computer software such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the utilization of tools such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), and the dramatic increase in processing speed and memory on personal computers have clearly contributed to such a tendency. The incorporation of spatial information has revealed, and continues revealing, unexpected results from non-spatial models. In this special issue, **Guest Editors: Jorge Mateu, Carles Comas**.

**Deadline for submissions: 15 July 2023**

c) Special Issue on **Computational Spatial Statistics for Large Datasets in Environmental Problems**. Spatial datasets increasingly contain many different sorts of data, from topographical, geometric or geographic information, as it is the case of environmental data, comprising measurements taken across a huge number of locations. The development of advanced observation techniques has led to increasingly larger datasets with high dimensionality, making statistical inference in spatial statistics computationally challenging and very costly. Various approximation methods can be used to model and analyze these large real-world spatial datasets, where exact computation is no longer feasible and inference is typically validated empirically or via prediction accuracy with the fitted model. In this context, geospatial applications have brought High-Performance Computing (HPC) into the mainstream and further increased its use in the spatial statistics field. ExaGeoStat is one such example of an HPC software that enables large-scale parallel generation, modeling, and prediction of large geospatial data via covariance matrices. Summing up, combining nuanced statistical methods with a robust parallel computational platform has enabled a modeling scheme that better predicts environmental conditions while being efficient enough to cover millions of monitoring locations. Taking advantage of the 2023 KAUST Competition on Spatial Statistics for Large Datasets, as a follow-up of the two previous ones in 2021 and 2022, the *Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics* (JABES) is calling for a special issue related to the theme **Computational Spatial Statistics for Large Datasets**. Although we very much encourage the participants (winners and not winners) of this KAUST competition to submit their papers to this special issue, we emphasize this is an open call for any researcher working on this field. **Guest Editors: Jorge Mateu, Joe Guinness, Andy Poppick**

## Deadline for submissions: 15 July 2023

June issue will feature a discussion paper based on the topic “*Saving Storage in Climate Ensembles: A Model-Based Stochastic Approach*” by Huang Huang, Stefano Castruccio, Allison H. Baker, and Marc G. Genton, with five discussants and a rejoinder.

The open call for the 2023 competition of the **Section on Statistics and the Environment** (ENVR) of the ASA is now open and, as in past editions, JABES will invite the winners and those receiving a mention to publish their winning papers with us.

The March 2023 issue of JABES (Vol 28 (1)) features the following papers:

- A Mixed Model for Assessing the Effect of Numerous Plant Species Interactions on Grassland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function Relationships by J McDonnell, T McKenna, K A Yurkonis, D Hennessy, R de Andrade Moral and C Brophy
- Estimating a Causal Exposure Response Function with a Continuous Error-Prone Exposure: A Study of Fine Particulate Matter and All-Cause Mortality by K P. Josey, P de Souza, X Wu, D Braun and R Nethery
- Correction to: Estimating a Causal Exposure Response Function with a Continuous Error-Prone Exposure: A Study of Fine Particulate Matter and All-Cause Mortality by K P. Josey, P de Souza, X Wu, D Braun and R Nethery
- Computational Efficiency and Precision for Replicated-Count and Batch-Marked Hidden Population Models by M R P Parker, L L E Cowen, J Cao and L T Elliott
- A Spatial Logistic Regression Model Based on a Valid Skew-Gaussian Latent Field by V Tadayon, M M Saber
- Model-Based Clustering of Trends and Cycles of Nitrate Concentrations in Rivers Across France by M Heiner, M J Heaton, B Abbott, P White, C Minaudo and R Dupas
- Distributional Validation of Precipitation Data Products with Spatially Varying Mixture Models by L R Warr, M J Heaton, W F Christensen, P A White and S B Rupper
- Zero-Inflated Beta Distribution Regression Modeling by B Tang, H A Frye, A E Gelfand and J A Silander
- Inference in Spatial Experiments with Interference using the SpatialEffect Package by C Samii, Y Wang, J Sullivan and P M Aronow
- Asynchronous Changepoint Estimation for Spatially Correlated Functional Time Series by M Wang, T Harris and B Li
- Correction to: Asynchronous Changepoint Estimation for Spatially Correlated Functional Time Series by M Wang, T Harris and B Li
- Modeling Community Dynamics Through Environmental Effects, Species Interactions and Movement by B Tang, J S Clark, P P Marra and A E Gelfand

JABES should be home for Data Science broadly defined as the science of JABES should be home for Data Science broadly defined

as the science of learning from data, incorporating advances in computation and data analytics, with statistical theory and inference for problems coming from the branches that sustain the journal. I would like to encourage interdisciplinary submissions that involve collaboration between statisticians and other data scientists to find solutions to these challenges, through innovative methodological developments and applications, bringing together data science and statistics. The innovative methodology should be directly motivated by real world data problems in agricultural, biological and environmental settings. For more information on upcoming issues, the editorial board, and the aim and scope of the journal, please visit our website <http://link.springer.com/journal/13253>. We also accept submissions of books to review in the upcoming issues of JABES; to submit a book for review, please see the above website (click on “Editorial Board”) or contact Eleni Matechou ([e.matechou@kent.ac.uk](mailto:e.matechou@kent.ac.uk)).

Please follow us on Twitter: [@JabesEditor](https://twitter.com/JabesEditor).

**Jorge Mateu**  
Editor-in-Chief

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### Employment Opportunity - Dean, Dornsife School of Public Health

Drexel University invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the Dornsife School of Public Health. Drexel University seeks an accomplished and inspiring leader to serve in this key leadership position to develop and advance a vision of education, research, and practice, and provide support to a talented faculty and staff and a supportive administration. This position represents an opportunity to build on the remarkable successes the School has achieved over the past decade and extend the positive trajectory for many years to come.



Under the leadership of President John Fry and Executive Vice President and Nina Henderson Provost, Paul Jensen the next dean will have the opportunity to provide strategic planning, vision, and lead the implementation of academic offerings that increase student enrollment. The next dean will build on the significant momentum in research and nurture the careers of all faculty and staff. Additionally, the dean will continue to build on the success of the [FIRST](#) initiative, the Urban Health Collaborative, the Ubuntu Center on Racism, Global Movements, and Population Health and work together with faculty, staff, students, and supporters of the School to identify possibilities for national distinction and bring the best options to life. The dean will build upon existing partnerships and develop new partnerships within Drexel and beyond the University as well as seek external funding for the School by working with University Advancement leaders to identify and cultivate relationships with foundations, corporations, alumni, and donors who support the mission and vision of the School.

The full prospectus is available [here](#).

For best consideration, please send all nominations and expressions of interest to:

Jim Sirianni, Managing Director Mark Halligan, Senior Associate  
Storbeck Search

[DrexelDSPHDean@storbecksearch.com](mailto:DrexelDSPHDean@storbecksearch.com)

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## STRengthening Analytical Thinking for Observational Studies (STRATOS): Introducing the Open Science Panel

Sabine Hoffmann<sup>1</sup>, Kim Luijken<sup>2</sup>, Willi Sauerbrei<sup>3</sup>, Pamela Shaw<sup>4</sup>,  
Anne-Laure Boulesteix<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Statistics, LMU Munich, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Department of Epidemiology, Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, Utrecht University Medical Center, University Utrecht, The Netherlands

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Medical Biometry and Statistics, Faculty of Medicine and Medical Center - University of Freiburg, Germany

<sup>4</sup> Division of Biostatistics, Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute, USA

<sup>5</sup> Institute for Medical Information Processing, Biometrics and Epidemiology (IBE), Faculty of Medicine, LMU Munich, Germany

This article continues the series describing the STRATOS initiative and its topic groups and panels. In this note, we introduce the newly formed Open Science Panel. The aim of this panel is to promote open science practices, both within the STRATOS initiative and more broadly, by providing accessible guidance for the scientific community on ways to make research more transparent, reproducible and credible.

Why do we need an open science panel? In recent years, the realization that published research findings across many disciplines are not as reliable as previously assumed has led to a “replication crisis” or “statistical crisis in science” [Gelman and Loken, 2014]. In response to this crisis, the scientific community, publishers, funders and other stakeholders are increasingly encouraging open science practices reflecting the idea that “scientific knowledge of all kinds, where appropriate, should be openly accessible, transparent, rigorous, reproducible, replicable, accumulative and inclusive” [Parsons et al., 2022]. Despite a growing awareness of the advantages of a research culture that builds on these principles, the uptake of open science practices in biomedical research is relatively slow [Wallach et al., 2018]. There are many examples of impactful work led by statisticians, but much more needs to be done by statisticians and researchers from many other disciplines [Seibold et al., 2021]. To help remove challenges and perceived barriers that still exist in the adoption of open science practices [Allen and Mehler, 2019], the STRATOS steering group decided to start an open science panel in December 2022.

Concerning open science practices within the STRATOS initiative, there is a general consensus that STRATOS publications should be open access. Moreover, they should use open access data sets (or a synthetic resemblance of it) to make results more easily reproducible. The Open Science and the Publication panels will work together to promote Open Science best practices for STRATOS publications, including development of an Open Science review process for STRATOS publications to undergo prior to submission to a journal.

Concerning guidance on adopting open science practices in observational studies, we plan to develop a paper for biomedical researchers which will outline approaches to dealing with uncertain choices in the analysis of observational studies (also referred to “researcher degrees of freedom” [Simmons et al., 2011]). Although there is increasing awareness of the dangers related to questionable research practices including “HARKing” [Kerr, 1998] and “p hacking”, many researchers are unaware of the consequences of seemingly innocuous decisions concerning data pre-processing and model choice that may often occur after considering several possible results on the analyzed data sets. It is important to increase awareness of the problems caused by result-dependent selective reporting and to give an overview of solutions that exist to deal with researcher degrees of freedom without invalidating statistical inference [Hoffmann et al., 2021]. We additionally plan to provide researchers with practical advice to improve the transparency about decisions during data processing and analysis made in their work through a tutorial paper and videos on the STRATOS website about how to make their analysis code readable and reproducible.

Furthermore, data sharing is another pressing topic in biomedical research for which guidance is urgently needed [Mansmann et al., 2023]. If data is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), science becomes more efficient, collaborative and transparent. Although data sharing is increasingly encouraged by journals and funding agencies, biomedical researchers remain hesitant to share



data, often with the best intentions. There is therefore a need for guidance on data sharing approaches that aim to find a way forward that both preserves privacy protection and the validity of statistical inference. Development of this guidance is a long-term aim of the Open Science panel.

The panel is presently chaired by Sabine Hoffmann. Further members are Anne-Laure Boulesteix, Daniela Dunkler, Roman Hornung, Michael Kammer, Kim Luijken, Pamela Shaw, Willi Sauerbrei, Fabian Scheipl and Ewout Steyerberg. The panel is looking for members interested in contributing. Please reach out to learn more.

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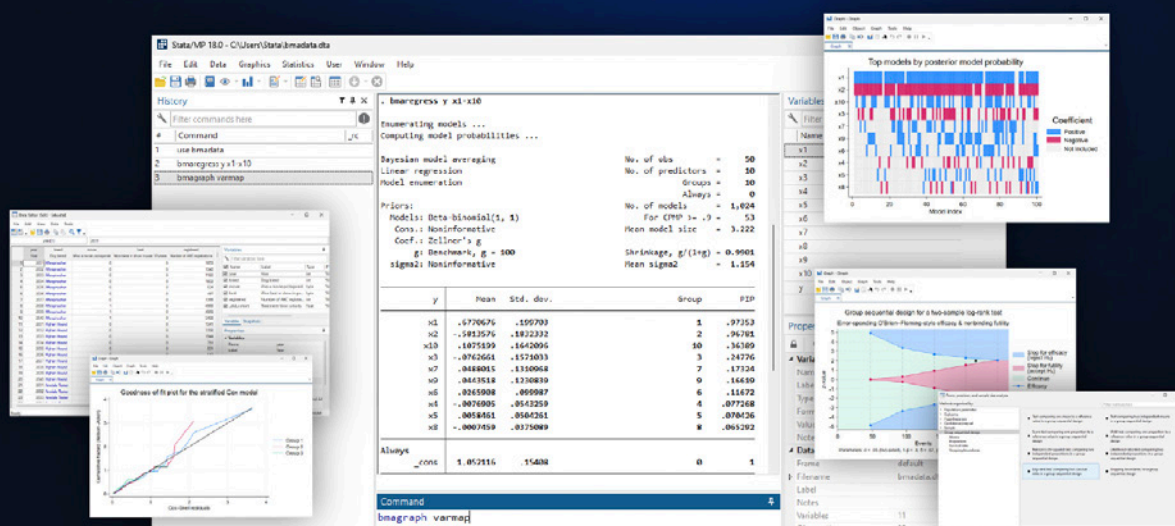
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# Region News

## Australasian Region (AR)

### Conference Announcement

The joint IBS-AR/SEEM Regional Conference, November 27 to December 1, 2023, at the Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Bay of Islands, Waitangi, New Zealand. It will be a joint conference with the Statistics in Ecology and Environmental Monitoring (SEEM) meeting. Details will be released progressively on the [website](#).

### IBS-AR Student Scholarships

To help attract enthusiastic and talented students to career paths in biometrics, the Australasian Region offers scholarships for suitably qualified students who intend to undertake a fourth or honours year of study, or a coursework Masters, in statistics, mathematical statistics, biostatistics, bioinformatics or biometrics. This year we had several excellent applications, and we are delighted to announce the winners: Jo Woollams (Master's student at the University of Auckland, New Zealand) and Victor Tsang (Honours student at the University of NSW, Sydney, Australia). Congratulations!

### Biography - Jo Woollams

Jo Woollams is pursuing a Master's degree in Statistics at the University of Auckland. Her research focuses on optimising decisions regarding Marine Protected Areas in New Zealand, taking into account conflicting priorities related to aesthetics, economics, and ecology. Using multicriteria analysis, statistical modelling, and simulations, she aims to produce a decision-making tool for designing and implementing Marine Protected Areas.



Jo Woollams

Jo enjoys scuba diving, snorkelling, and cycling. She spent her formative years sailing and camping in New Zealand's stunning natural environments, and her love for nature has only grown stronger with time. With over a decade of experience in education, Jo has dedicated her career to helping others. In Biostatistics, she plans to utilise her skills in data analysis, statistical modelling, and communication to contribute to the preservation of New Zealand's unique ecology.

### Biography - Alistair Martin

I am a Research Masters with Training (RMT) student at Murdoch university, where I have continued from my BSc majoring in Mathematics & Statistics and Computer Science. The training component of my RMT has focused on linear models, robustness theory, and optimisation for deep learning. This has led to work on redescending M-Estimates for location and scale, with applications to a robust adaptive lasso procedure.

My path to this point has been a little unorthodox. I'm the first in my family to have attended university. I did so as a mature age student, studying remotely full time while also working full time. In the preceding years I had taken the autodidact approach, (re) learning algebra through to calculus, and computer science. It has been a busy several years, during which time I have fallen in love with mathematics.

For me, part of the appeal of statistics is how challenging it has been. I'm fascinated by the multitude of models and methods, and the intuition and understanding required to correctly interpret results. I hope to one day attain the ability to extract meaningful new knowledge of an underlying phenomenon through data, in whatever shape that data may take. Moreover, I'm excited about the potential to wield these skills for the greater good.



Alistair Martin

It's humbling to have been awarded an IBS-AR scholarship. The more I learn, the more I realise how much more there is to learn, so I don't see myself stopping any time soon. With a bit of luck, I may one day know what I'm talking about!

**Garth Tarr**

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## Brazilian Region (RBras)

The 67th annual meeting of RBras, from July 24-28, 2023, with the theme "The (bio)statistics and biometrics in the age of digital revolution", will be held in Londrina, Paraná, Brazil. Organized by the Department of Statistics of the Federal University of Londrina, the Conference has Clarice Garcia Borges Demétrio as head of the scientific committee and Mariana Ragassi Urbano as head of the local committee. More information is available [here](#). All the IBS community is welcome!

**Christian Marcelo Villegas Lobos  
and Marcelo Andrade Silva**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## Cameroon (GCmr)



### International Biometric Society-Cameroon Region (IBS-CAM) Officers

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**Che Henry**

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

Congratulations to our friends in the newly-formed Cameroon Region. Visit <https://members.biometricsociety.org/about/regions-networks/cameroon> for more information on the Region and who to contact with a word of welcome!

## Central American and Caribbean Region (RCAC)

### Research Output by IBS RCAC members

#### Journal articles

Oscar Espinosa, director of the Economic Models and Quantitative Methods Research Group (IMEMC), Centro de Investigaciones para el Desarrollo, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, was co-author of the following publications featuring the application of statistical methods to data from economic and actuarial studies in healthcare.

i) <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13561-022-00416-5>

Espinosa, O., Bejarano, V., Ramos, J. et al. (2023). Statistical actuarial estimation of the Capitation Payment Unit from copula functions and deep learning: historical comparability analysis for the Colombian health system, 2015–2021. *Health Economic Review*, 13, 15.

ii) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.health.2023.100148>

Barrera, N., Torres, R., Rodríguez, J., Espinosa, O., Avellaneda, S., & Ramírez, J. (2023). A recommender system for occupational hygiene services using natural language processing. *Healthcare Analytics*, 3, 100148.

iii) <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-022-01818-x>

Mora-Moreo, L., Estrada-Orozco, K., Espinosa, O., et al. (2023). Characterization of the population affiliated to the subsidized health insurance scheme in Colombia: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 22, 28.

iv) <https://doi.org/10.17533/udea.le.n98a348472>

Chamorro, C., Cañon, L., Espinosa, O. A., Ramírez, J., Arregocés, L. (2022). Revisión sistemática realista sobre las opciones de incentivos en Colombia para la gestión en salud. *Lecturas De Economía*, 98, 157–189.

#### Conference presentation

Novie Younger-Coleman will lead a roundtable discussion entitled Data Analysis Methods for **Depression Screening Tool** Data on Tuesday August 8, 2023, beginning at 12:30:00 PM during the Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto, Canada. A preview of the session details can be found at <https://www2.aievolution.com/JSMAAnnual/index.cfm?do=ev.viewEv&ev=5102>.

**Novie Younger**

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## Eastern North American Region (ENAR)

### WebENARs

Be sure to check the ENAR Webinar website for updates regarding the upcoming WebENAR series, as well as for links to past WebENARs and their recordings: <http://www.enar.org/education/index.cfm>.

## 2023 ENAR Spring Meeting, 19-22 March, Nashville, TN, USA

The first fully in-person meeting since 2019, the 2023 Spring Meeting of the IBS Eastern North American Region was held 19-22 March at JW Marriott Nashville. The meeting was a resounding success with excellent scientific sessions, roundtables and short courses.

ENAR extends heartiest congratulations to John Van Ryzin award winner Xinyuan Tian at Yale University, and all recipients of the Distinguished Student Paper Award: Chia-Rui (Jerry) Chang (Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health); Yi Chen (University of Wisconsin Madison); Chao Cheng (Yale University); Chiara Di Gravio (Vanderbilt University); Jingyi Duan (Cornell University); Kimberly Hochstedler (Cornell University); Bora Jin (Duke University); Jonathan Kim (University of Minnesota); Xi Ning (University of North Carolina at Charlotte); Kwangmoon Park (University of Wisconsin-Madison); Mingyang Ren (The Chinese University of Hong Kong); Yueqi Shen (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill); Lei Shi (University of California, Berkeley); Yao Song (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor); Xiaoqing Tan (University of Pittsburgh); Di Wang (University of Michigan); Jiyang Wen (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health); Zhenghao Zeng (Carnegie Mellon University); and Anja Zgodic (University of South Carolina).



2023 John Van Ryzin Award winner Xinyuan Tian (second from right in back) with 2023 Distinguished Student Paper Award winners. ENAR 2023 Spring Meeting, JW Marriott Nashville, Nashville, TN, USA.



ENAR President Leslie McClure (left) with 2023 Distinguished Student Paper Award winners. ENAR 2023 Spring Meeting, JW Marriott Nashville, Nashville, TN, USA.



ENAR also congratulates RAB poster competition winners: Jamar Bather (Harvard University), Xi Jiang (Southern Methodist University), Mengbing Li (University of Michigan), Qinqing Li (University of Michigan), and Grace Rhodes (North Carolina State University).

ENAR owes big debts of gratitude to everyone involved in the planning of the ENAR 2023 Spring Meeting and making it a big success! We are particularly grateful to the program chair, Elizabeth Handorf (Fox Chase Cancer Center), and associate chair, Sameera Wijayawardana (Eli Lilly), as well as contributions from many ENAR members.

### 2023 JSM, Ontario, Canada

The 2023 Joint Statistical Meetings will be held in Ontario, Canada from 05-10 August 2023. The theme for the 2023 meeting is "One Community: Informing Decisions and Driving Discovery."

As always, ENAR, one of the founding societies of JSM, has been instrumental in organizing an outstanding program, and has sponsored many exciting sessions. These include invited paper sessions on new advances in causal inference with complex health datasets, integrating information from different data sources, estimating heterogeneous treatment effects to inform decisions, differential privacy for data science, precision medicine, innovative methods for time-to-event outcomes, planning observational studies with unobserved confounding in mind, and statistical methods for cell-type-specific analysis using bulk and single cell data, and invited panel sessions on frontiers of statistics, training, retaining, and integrating staff biostatisticians to enhance academic research, and Biostatistics or Data Science: choosing the right path. ENAR owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Liangyuan Hu at Rutgers University ([lh707@sph.rutgers.edu](mailto:lh707@sph.rutgers.edu)) for representing us at the 2023 JSM. For more details about the upcoming JSM meetings, please visit: <https://www2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2023/index.cfm>.

### 2024 ENAR Spring Meeting, 10-13 March, Nashville, TN, USA

The 2024 ENAR Spring Meeting is scheduled to take place in Baltimore, MD, USA, at the Marriott Baltimore Waterfront. To informally suggest ideas, topics, or names of potential speakers, please contact Program Chair Sameera R. Wijayawardana at Eli Lilly ([sameera.r.wijayawardana@gmail.com](mailto:sameera.r.wijayawardana@gmail.com)) or Program Co-chair Christina Mehta at Emory University ([christina.mehta@emory.edu](mailto:christina.mehta@emory.edu)). Questions about short course and tutorial sessions should be directed to the Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) Chair and ENAR 2024 President-elect Renee' Moore ([rh55@drexel.edu](mailto:rh55@drexel.edu)). The local arrangements chair is John McGready at the Johns Hopkins University ([jmcgreal@jhu.edu](mailto:jmcgreal@jhu.edu)).

**Saptarshi Chakraborty**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

### French Region (RF)

Some news from the French Region of the IBS "Société Française de Biométrie (SFB)"

The French Region of the IBS held its annual Young Researcher Day January 19, 2023, in Rennes, France. The meeting gathered about 50 participants either on site or online. The keynote speaker

was Sophie Donnet (Inrae, Univ. Paris-Saclay). The conference also included talks from Arthur Chatton and Marion Keroui who were both awarded the Daniel Schwartz PhD dissertation prize.

As previously announced, coming events of the French Region of the IBS include:

The Channel Network Conference (CNC), August 23-25, 2023, at Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Netherlands, hosted by the Dutch Region of the IBS in partnership with the IBS regions of Belgium, France, and Great-Britain/Ireland. The call for contributed abstract is open until May 15, 2023. More information can be found on the conference website: <https://cnc23.sciencesconf.org>.

More information can be found on our website: <https://sfb.pages.math.cnrs.fr/asso/>

**Anne Thiébaud**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

### Indian Region (IR)

<https://www.biometricsociety.org/about/regions-networks/indian>

### XVI Biennial Conference of International Biometric Society-Indian Region-IBS(IR) 2023

Sir R. A. Fisher founded the Biometric Society in 1947 with five regions/groups, comprising Britain, France, Australia, the United States, and India. The Indian Region of the Biometric Society was established with Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis as its President, Prof. C.R. Rao as Secretary, and Prof. Mohanlal Ganguly as Treasurer. India lost its regional status and served as a National Group between 1952 and 1988. India regained regional status in 1989. The first Conference of the revived Indian Region of IBS was held under the able leadership of Prof. P.V. Sukhatme as President, Prof. G.K. Shukla as Secretary, and Prof. H. Sridhara as Treasurer in May 1990 at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. Thereafter, Biennial conferences were held regularly. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic period the XV biennial conference, though in a hybrid mode, was organized by the ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), Chennai, in November, 2021, by the actively current Executive of IBS(IR).



The XVI Biennial Conference of International Biometric Society (Indian Region) was held on 30th and 31st March 2023 at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) in Bangalore, Karnataka, India.



The focus of the event was to provide a platform for scholars to exchange knowledge and learning on 'Artificial Intelligence in Biometrics'. The inaugural function was coordinated by Dr Nimitha John. It began with a prayer, followed by the dignitaries lighting the lamp. Prof Deepthi Das, the Head of the Department of Statistics and Data Science, welcomed the gathering. A formal introduction of the department as well of the organising institution was made along with preamble and the highlights of IBS and the Indian Region. Prof Sheeja Karalam, Coordinator of the Centre for Research, the University, delivered the inaugural address and released the conference proceedings. Prof Ajit Sahai, President, IBS(IR), in his address to the gathering thanked the authorities of the CHRIST University and especially to Prof Deepthi Das, the leader of the organising team. Prof Sahai also appreciated the keen interest and efforts made by his own IBS(IR) team, especially to the Secretary, Prof P Marimuthu and Treasurer, Dr Binu V S; both from the Department of Biostatistics, NIMHANS, Bengaluru.



Prof. P Marimuthu, the Secretary of IBS, presented the biennial report of IBS(IR). He also mentioned that IBS(IR) had instituted several awards and honours during the past decades. The honour of "Life-time achievement award" was bestowed on Prof H Sridhara, former head of the department of Statistics, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. "Prof. Ashok Sahai Oration" was delivered on "Genotype-environment interaction and Thennarasu stability measures" by Prof. K Thennerasu, head, department of Biostatistics, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, whereas, Prof P Venkatesan, former head, department of Biostatistics, NIRT (ICMR), Chennai, delivered "Prof. P.V Sukhatme" Endowment Lecture on "Statistical methods for Next Generation Sequencing Data"

The three 'Young biometrician' awards were received namely by Dr Palash, Ms Rekha, and Dr Amurtha Jose. The session was attended by around 350 participants and it concluded with vote of thanks by Dr Mini Jayan, Secretary, organising committee. The day ended with a grand cultural evening organised in the main auditorium with a seating capacity of 2,000 delegates.

There were four invited talks including the keynote address by:

- 1) Dr. P Venkatesan former head, department of Statistics, NIRT (ICMR), Chennai on "Machine Learning Approaches for High-Dimensional Survival Data".
- 2) Dr. Sreenivas M., Director Professor, Department of Forensics, Maulana Azad Medical College, (MAMC) New Delhi, on "AI in Biometrics".
- 3) Dr. Sudheesh K Kattumannil, Associate Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Chennai, on "Machine Learning for Reliability and Survival Analysis" and
- 4) Dr. Achuth Sankar, Professor and Head, Department of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, University of Kerala, on Deep Learning: AI with Divya Drishti "Artificial Intelligence in Bioinformatics".

A total of seventy (70) abstracts were considered for oral presentations in 6 technical sessions (tracks), distributed over two days, three each on 30th and 31st March, 2023, afternoons. Papers on Predictive Modelling (Track 1), Probabilistic Modelling (Track 2), and Biostatistics (Track 3) were presented on the first day. Whereas, on the second day the papers were presented in three parallel tracks, which included Track 4 (Forecasting Techniques), Track 5 (Health Care Analytics), and Track 6 (Artificial Intelligence). To encourage the young participants, a best paper from each session was chosen. The valedictory function was presided over by the CHRIST Dean, Sciences, Prof George C Thomas, who distributed the awards to young participants

Two parallel pre-conference workshops were also organised with about ninety (90) participants on March 29, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The first one focused on 'Computational Statistics and Machine Learning using Python', was conducted by the faculty from CHRIST University itself, namely; Professors' Tulasi B, Azarudheen S, Umme Salma M and Prof Saleema. The second workshop was

on 'Sample Size Computation in Social Sciences Research'. The faculty from NIMHANS, Bengaluru, took the initiative and the sessions were conducted by Professors' Binu V S, Mariamma Philip, Binukumar B, Dr. Prathyusha P.V. and Dr Harichandrakumar, JIPMER, Pondicherry. The two workshops provided insights into the latest techniques and technologies in the field of biometrics, which can be applied to real-world problems in various domains. The hands-on training sessions helped participants gain practical experience.



Apart from conferencing, regular Executive committee and general Body Meetings of IBS (IR) were also conducted in the evenings of 29th and 30th March, 2023, respectively with a number of crucial decisions to be implemented soon.

**Ajit Sahai, President IBS (IR)**

## Italian Region (RItI)

FINAL CALL for the biennial 13th IBS-Italian Region Conference that will be held in Milano, organized by the University of Milano-Bicocca. This will be a joint Conference with the International Society of Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB), 27-31 August 2023. The Local Organising Committee (LOC) comprises Maria Grazia Valsecchi (Chair) and Paola Rebora (Treasurer), while the Scientific Programme Committee will have Stefania Galimberti as Chair. EARLY BIRD DEADLINE IS 31 May 2023. Visit the conference website for more information and updates (<https://www.iscb2023.info>). We look forward to an exciting conference where the IBS community is welcome.

**Francesco Stingo**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## Japanese Region (JR)

We are pleased to announce that Satoshi Hattori (Osaka University) has been appointed as the new president of the Biometric Society of Japan (BSJ), and a new board of directors has been organized.

### The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Biometric Society of Japan

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the BSJ will be held on 20-21 April 2023 in hybrid combining online and onsite at the Hokkaido University Conference Hall, Sapporo, Japan. Two invited sessions on omics data analysis and the 2022 BSJ Award for Outstanding Scientific Contribution will be organized. The tutorial seminar entitled "The Basics and Applications of Causal Inference" will also be organized jointly with Japanese Society of Applied Statistics.

### The 2023 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting

The BSJ is one of the six sponsoring organizations of the meeting, and the 2023 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting will be held on 3-7 September at Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. The BSJ is organizing an invited session entitled "New Developments in Biometrics and Ecology." The society is also organizing an invited session in which the winner of the Young Biostatistician Award conferred by the society will present her research.

**Takashi Daimon**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

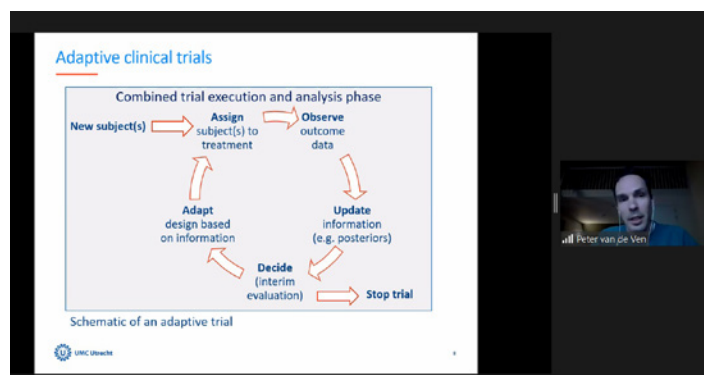
## The Netherlands (BMS-ANed)

<https://www.vvsor.nl/biometrics/>

The fourth online seminar in the Biostatistics Seminar Series was given on Thursday 9 March 2023 by Peter van de Ven from the Utrecht University Medical Center in the Netherlands. Peter's talk was about: "Bayesian adaptive approaches to clinical trials". Peter started with an introduction and broad overview on adaptive designs, the role and need of Bayesian methods and closed with



the presentation of a decision-theoretic framework for multi-arm multi-stage clinical trials. The online seminars aim at a broad biostatistical audience, in particular PhD students. Similar to the previous online sessions this seminar was attended by many PhD students, but also more senior statisticians.



The next online seminar in the Biostatistics Seminar Series will take place in June on **Recent applications of Integrated Nested Laplace Approximations** by Bart Mertens from the Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands. The exact date and the link to the seminar will appear [here](#). More details on this event will follow in the next issue of the Biometric Bulletin.

On the occasion of announcing the winner of the Hans van Houwelingen Biometry Award 2022, the BMS-Aned will organise on 15 June in Utrecht a half day symposium with invited speakers the jury members: Emmanuel Lesaffre (KU Leuven, Belgium), Manuela Zucknick (University of Oslo, Norway) and Tim Friede (University Medical Center Göttingen, Germany). More information on the exact location and the registration link will appear [here](#). The winning paper published in a refereed journal in the Biostatistics and Biometrics field in 2020, 2021 and 2022 will be announced in the next issue of the Biometric Bulletin.

Finally, abstract submission for the **2023 Channel Network Conference** is now open until 15 May 2023. The conference will be organized at the Wageningen University and research, from 23-25 August, as an in-person event. Wageningen University is located in the historical city of Wageningen, the Netherlands. The venue will be the Omnia building on the Wageningen campus. Links to the conference website and further information are available [here](#).

**Roula Tsonaka**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## Polish Region (GPol)

On April 25, 2023, we celebrated a special ceremony at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Life Sciences in Lublin. It was the 90th birthday of Professor Edward Niedokos - a long-time employee of our department, who was also a member of IBS for many years.

Professor Edward Niedokos was born in a Polish family in Pochapy in today's Ukraine, from where he came to Poland a few years later. Here he completed primary and secondary school and mathematical studies at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in

Lublin (UMCS), where he obtained a master's degree for the thesis entitled "Study of the motion of a spherical pendulum." In 1956, he started working at our department, and in 1956 he defended his doctoral thesis at UMCS, written under the supervision of Professor Wiktor Okta, entitled "Mathematical models of systems with split units". In 1973 he obtained a post-doctoral degree, also at UMCS. In 1990, he was nominated as an associate professor at our university, and in 1993 he received a nomination for a professor of agricultural sciences at the Belweder Palace from the President of the Republic of Poland - Lech Wałęsa. In the years 1973-1990, he headed the Mathematics Unit in our Department. In 2003, the Professor retired, but still actively participates with us in meetings and conferences.

A special place in the scientific activity of Professor Edward Niedokos is occupied by issues devoted to sample size determination for interval estimation of variance functions, and moments of estimators of heritability coefficients for the balanced and unbalanced models. In 1977 he was on a scientific internship in Wageningen in the Netherlands. He participated in many international conferences, including the International Biometric Conferences in 1982 (Toulouse), 1994 (Hamilton), 1996 (Amsterdam), 1998 (Cape Town), and in 2000 (Berkeley).

Professor Edward Niedokos taught mathematics and its applications, mathematical statistics, and experimentation at the University of Life Sciences in Lublin. He always prepared himself very carefully for lectures and classes, and he was able to share his vast knowledge in an extremely accessible way, for which in 1978 he received the honorary title of Homo Didacticus awarded in a plebiscite of students at our university. He is the author or co-author of three academic textbooks awarded by the Minister of Science and Higher Education of Poland. He was a supervisor and reviewer of doctoral theses and a reviewer of one post-doctoral thesis.

For many years, Professor Niedokos was an active member of the Polish Mathematical Society, where he was the president of the Lublin branch and a member of the main board. He was also a member of the International Biometric Society, and at the Polish Academy of Sciences, he was a member of the Statistical Board of the Mathematical Committee. He also performed organizational functions at the university as a member of the Senate of the Agricultural University in Lublin.

His activity in the field of science, teaching, and organization was awarded by the authorities of Poland and the university. In 1977, he received the Golden Cross of Merit, in 1979—the Medal of the National Education Commission, in 1987—the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, and in 1978 the Rector's Award.

The solemn birthday seminar was held in the seminar room of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Life Sciences in Lublin. The professor worked in this Department for 47 years and is still related to it today. During the ceremony, there were warm wishes, a presentation of the Professor's biography and his most important achievements, as well as interesting memories from the Professor's life. There was also a delicious cake and many words of appreciation for the Professor from the participants of the ceremony.



Professor Edward Niedokos. Photo credit: Andrzej Bochniak]

## Western North American Region (WNAR)

### 2023 WNAR/IMS meeting

The 2023 WNAR/IMS meeting will be held at the Hilton Anchorage in downtown Anchorage, Alaska, June 18-21 2023. Anchorage is Alaska's largest city and is picturesquely located on the Cook Inlet. The Chugach mountains, multiple national parks, and 60 glaciers are all a short drive away. The WNAR conference is held in June, when the long summer days can be enjoyed.

**Scientific program co-chairs:** Audrey Hendricks ([wnar-programchair@gmail.com](mailto:wnar-programchair@gmail.com)), University of Colorado Denver; Wen (Rick) Zhou, Colorado State University

**IMS program chair:** Hua Zhou University of California, Los Angeles

**Local organizer:** Jiaqi Huang, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**Chair of Student Award Committee:** Charlotte Gard, New Mexico State University

Registration for the meeting is now open. Please submit your abstracts and join us for invited and contributed sessions and panels, student paper presentations, as well as professional development opportunities. The [WNAR website](#) will have the most up-to-date status of the meeting.

**Jessica Minnier**

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent



Professor and some participants of the birthday seminar. Photo credit: Andrzej Bochniak

**Elżbieta Kubera and Dorota Domagała**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent



## IBC2022 Video Recordings Available for Purchase!

IBC 2022 session videos are now available for purchase. The full package includes 85+ hours of content.

IBC 2022 attendees can continue to view all IBC content free of charge.

**Get Access Today!**



# Announcements & Upcoming Events

## IBS, IBS Regional and Non-IBS Events and Meetings

### The ENAR 2023 Joint Statistical Meeting

August 5-10, 2023  
Ontario, Canada

### The 2023 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting

3-7 September 2023  
Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

[View the full meetings calendar here!](#)

## IBS, IBS Regional and Non-IBS Events and Meetings

Is something missing? Would you like to add your meeting or event to our calendar? If so, please send an email to [IBS@biometricsociety.org](mailto:IBS@biometricsociety.org) with the following information:

1. Event Title
2. Event Description & Location
3. Event Category (IBS Regional Event, IBS Event, Non-IBS Event)
4. Event Link
5. Start/End Date

# Get Connected!

## Participate in the IBS Members Community:

1. [Sign in](https://members.biometricsociety.org/community/my-communities) to <https://members.biometricsociety.org/community/my-communities> with your existing credentials. [Contact us](#) if you need assistance.
2. Visit your **profile** to update your personal information and edit privacy settings.
3. Be sure to click on the group **Settings** and customize **Email Notifications** so you receive the information you want (real-time updates, a daily digest, or no emails). You may set your preferred **email** address here as well.
4. The final step, **post an update or topic!** This channel is for IBS members, the goal is to empower 6,000 colleagues worldwide to share their unique perspectives, reach out, and connect.

We welcome all comments and feedback about the website. [Let us know](#) what you think!



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