

Biometric BULLETIN

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

International Biometric Society Internationale Biometrische Gesellschaft Société International de Biométrie

President's CORNER



Iris Pigeot
International Biometric Society, President

Let me start with some wonderful news: Sarah Ratcliffe (ENAR) and Tarylee Reddy (South African Region) have been re-elected as treasurer and secretary of our society, respectively. I am so glad that they both agreed to continue for a further term. Congratulations and a big thank you to both of you for your wonderful job and your strong commitment to our society!

The past few months have been very much dedicated to our next IBC in Seoul, South Korea on 12-16 July 2026. The International Planning Committee (IPC), chaired by Frank Bretz, has worked hard to decide on the Invited Sessions since a huge number of excellent suggestions have been submitted. Please note that organizers and speakers of the invited sessions have to register early to make sure that all sessions will take place. Otherwise, slots will be released and filled by contributed papers, since

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ISSN 8750-0434

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International Biometric Society

Biometric Bulletin is typically published four times a year in March, June, September, and December.

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The *Biometric Bulletin* is available to members of the Society as part of their membership dues.

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Region Key

Regions

RArg - Argentinean Region

AR - Australasian Region

ROeS - Austro-Swiss Region

RBe - Belgian Region

Benin - Benin Region

GBot - Botswanian Region

RBras - Brazilian Region

BIR - British and Irish Region

RCAC - Central American-Caribbean Region

GCmr - Cameroon Region

GCI - Chilean Region

CHINA - Chinese Region

CROA - Croatian 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

NAM - Namibian Region

GNi - Nigerian Region

NR - Nordic-Baltic Region

GPol - Polish Region

GRo - Romanian Region

RWAN - Rwanda Region

GSaf - South African Region

REsp - Spanish Region

ANed - The Netherlands Region

GUgan - Ugandan Region

WNAR - Western North American Region

GZim - Zimbabwean Region

Networks

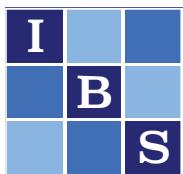
CEN - Central European Network

CN - Channel Network

EAN - East Asian Network

HISP - Hispanic International Network

SUSAN - Sub-Saharan Network



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IBS Mentoring Program: Information Session Summary

Mentoring Program Co-Chairs Tarylee Reddy and Louise Ryan discuss the value of participating in the IBS Mentoring Program. Learn more about the program and steps to sign-up.



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Update from the IBO

Peter Doherty, Executive Director, offers a year in review...of sorts.



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STRengthening Analytical Thinking for Observational Studies (STRATOS): Recommendations for the design and analysis of Patient Reported Outcomes (the SISAQOL-IMI project).

The STRATOS article on the SISAQOL-IMI project presents careful, practical guidance on the use of patient-reported outcomes, and provides a strong example of how methodological work can inform real-world study design.

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Call for nominations: Rousseeuw Prize for Statistics 2026

Nominations are open for the Rousseeuw Prize for Statistics awards pioneering work in statistical methodology. Learn more about the prize and how to submit nominations.

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Announcements & Upcoming Events

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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most surprisingly, the IPC has received more than 600 contributed paper proposals. Let me thank Frank and the whole IPC for this tremendous effort to review all proposals and to select the best suggestions from various perspectives.

In addition, the preferred Short Course Program with innovative and extremely important topics has been fixed by the Education Committee, led by its chair Rafael De Andrade Moral, whom I would like to thank for carefully reviewing the submitted proposals. The sessions as listed online will proceed provided we have reached at least the minimum number of attendees for each. So, as you are selecting your IBC activities, please consider signing up for a Short Course!

Let me again highlight that the Presidential Address of our IBC 2026 will be given by Alan Agresti, whose contributions to categorial data analyses have fundamentally influenced the research in this area. More information will soon be shared online.

During the recent meetings of the official IBC Planning Group, we have decided on a wonderful tour program that has been put together by Jenna Beak (MCI). You will find suggestions for half-day tours as well as longer tours, all of which are scheduled for the final day of our conference. In addition, the overall budget has been agreed upon thanks to our treasurer Sarah Ratcliffe and the Budget and Finance Committee. However, I would like to emphasize that we would still greatly appreciate financial support from companies where we heavily rely on our industry representatives in IBS.

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC), co-chaired by Sohee Park, is working hard to make our stay in Seoul as exciting and comfortable as possible. In addition, the LOC is taking care to fulfill the suggestions of the Sustainability Task Force under the lead of Andrea Berghold (ROeS) to balance or even reduce our “ecological footprint”.

Several networks have accepted our invitation to organize their own sessions to present the network and their research activities. They are in close contact with our Secretary Tarylee Reddy (South African Region) who is taking care of these sessions. In other programming news, we are looking forward to a new session showcasing our excellent female researchers in the IBS. This session is organized

by our Incoming President Gabriela Cendoya (Argentinian Region) and our Treasurer Sarah Ratcliffe (ENAR). And as already introduced in detail in my last greetings, Frank Bretz and I are planning a plenary session with a round table discussion on the topic of “Responding to Uncertainty in Times of Global Challenges” (tentative title), where we would like to discuss how to respond more proactively and visibly to urgent global challenges such as pandemics, climate change, and artificial intelligence. I have already introduced two of our panelists: Caillin O’Connor and Alex John London. In the meanwhile, our third panelist with a focus on climate change has accepted our invitation: Shlomit Paz, who is professor at the University of Haifa where she leads the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. She is a climatologist and environmental health researcher who among others focuses on monitoring and surveillance of vector/water/food-borne diseases outbreaks. Recently she led a large EU project for the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm, on the current and predicted impacts of climate change on vector-borne diseases to support EU countries in improving their preparedness to severe outbreaks in the near future. Moreover, she serves as contributor to the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of 1.5°C warming on human and natural systems. We are really excited about our panel and are looking forward to this new session format. We hope that the IBC 2026 participants will support this panel discussion with lively contributions of their own.

In December all IBS members will, for the first time, receive an email informing you all about the most recent developments in our society. The International Business Office (IBO) and the Officers have just finalized the first email message.

Now it is time to say Goodbye: my term as IBS President will end on 31 December 2025. I enjoyed the many opportunities to get in touch with so many highly committed IBS members who supported me in leading the society for two years. Whenever I asked someone to take over an additional task I got a positive reply which was a wonderful feeling. Thanks to all of you!! In particular, I am extremely grateful that we were able to welcome three new regions to our society. We will decide on a fourth new region at our next Executive Board meeting. By

this, we were able to strengthen the international spread of our society. At the end of the day, let me thank, from the bottom of my heart, Peter Doherty (IBO), Tarylee Reddy, Sarah Ratcliffe and María Gabriela Cendoya (Argentinian Region) for their never-ending support. It has been a great time and a real honor working with you as IBS President. Thank you again for your trust and your strong commitment! I am now looking forward to my new role as Outgoing President and to the final steps to be taken in organizing the IBC2026.

One final important note: None of the Officers, nor anyone from IBO staff, will get in touch with you

at any time either by phone or email to ask you for a money transfer. Any contacts asking for money transfer are phishing. Please ignore those!!

Since you won't get these greetings until later in January, I hope that you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday season and a great start to a fantastic and prosperous New Year!

**All the best,
Iris Pigeot**

International Biometric Society President
pigeot@leibniz-bips.de

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the *Biometric Bulletin* reflects a Society going from strength to strength. There is a sense of continuity alongside renewal - seen in the re-election of key officers Sarah Ratcliffe (ENAR) and Tarylee Reddy (South African Region), the welcoming of new volunteers, a smooth transition between outgoing president, Iris Pigeot and incoming president Maria Gabriela Cendoya, and the careful planning well underway for IBC 2026 in Seoul.

Several contributions in this issue highlight the strength of our community across generations. The summary of the IBS Mentoring Program underscores how structured support and informal guidance continue to shape careers worldwide, while the Women's Corner article by Andrea Berghold (Austro-Swiss Region) offers a long-view perspective on how intentional investment in early-career statisticians pays dividends over decades. The support of students and early career researchers is also reflected throughout the regional news: student scholarships in AR; student paper competition and indigenous student travel award in WNAR; PhD day in BMS-ANed; and seminars featuring PhD students in RCAC. Contributions to the International Biometric Society Travel Awards Fund are now being sought to support members from lower and middle-income countries (LMICs), with the goal of enabling participation in IBS events.

Also in this issue, the STRATOS article on the SISAQOL-IMI project presents careful, practical guidance on the use of patient-reported outcomes, and provides a strong example of how methodological work can inform real-world study design. The Regional News section reflects the continued strength of our meetings and networks. I was able to attend the 2025 Australasian Region Biometrics Conference, *Biometrics in the Bush Capital*, held in Canberra in late November, where it was encouraging to see both the quality of the scientific program and the outstanding engagement across career stages.

My thanks, as always, to our correspondents, contributors, and the IBO team for their care and professionalism. The Biometric Bulletin remains a collective effort, and it is a privilege to help steward it on behalf of the Society.

Garth Tarr
Biometric Bulletin Editor



Update UPDATE FROM THE IBO



Peter Doherty
Executive Director

Hello colleagues!

I hope you are all looking forward to a wonderful New Year, not to mention the July International Biometric Conference coming up in Seoul. With plenty of time to highlight the very best of the conference in the coming months, I wanted to instead congratulate several of our volunteers in this issue for a job well done in 2025 and several others who will be taking on new roles in 2026.

First, I must tell you how much I have enjoyed working with our Officers this year, and especially President Iris Pigeot, who has just completed a highly successful two years leading the Society. During Professor Pigeot's term, we've reinvigorated

the work of the IBS Representative Council, returned to membership growth after several years where there was minimal growth, championed important sustainability and civic responsibility initiatives, restarted the Distinguished Lecture program, welcomed new Regions in Southeastern Europe and Africa, celebrated our first-ever biennial conference in Atlanta and confirmed Basel, Switzerland as the location of the 34th IBC, and that's not all! We have also successfully completed the transition of our *Biometrics* journal from our former publisher to Oxford University Press, welcomed new committee Chairs to all standing committees, engaged the IBS Board during its

first-ever in-person Board meeting in Ethiopia, and launched a brand-new awards and IBC registration system. Iris's list may not exactly match mine when it comes to highlights, but there is no doubt that the efforts of the past two years have been pivotal to our recent success. Thank you, Iris and leadership team!

Other noteworthy volunteers this year include Dr. Jorge Mateau of the Spanish Region, whose efforts and that of the Associate Editors have helped sustain *JABES* while encouraging both the varied content and readership for this publication, while Professor Garth Tarr has successfully managed the transition to *Biometric Bulletin* Executive Editor. He will be joined by Professor Lu Mao, who will be managing Associate Editor duties for the *Bulletin* in 2026. And I can't forget to mention longtime Executive Editor Professor Geert Molenberghs for his steady hand at the helm of *Biometrics*. We have Geert to thank for helping to navigate not only the negotiations with Oxford, but also his engagement with University of Auckland, where a new editorial management partnership has just recently been established. Thanks to you all for helping our Society's official publications to thrive, including all of the extremely helpful co-editors, associate editors, contractors and staff whom I have not mentioned but are appreciated!

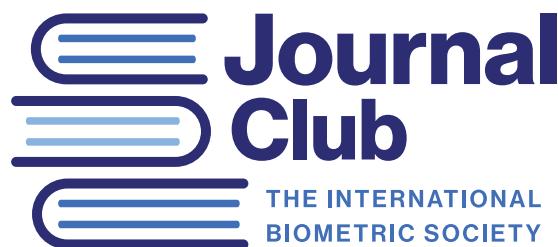
There is more volunteer news coming in 2026. For starters, Murali Haran, Professor of Statistics in the Eberly College of Science at Penn State University, will become Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics* (JABES) for a three-year term starting in 2026. Congratulations to Professor Haran! We will also be saying farewell to many committee and Representative Council members, while many others will be seated as IBS volunteers for the

first time. Incoming President Gabriela Cendoya and I look forward to the onboarding process for these new volunteers and making the most of the first month or two of 2026, as we consider how these working groups might tend to the needs of Society members most effectively during Gabriela's 2026-2027 term. Beyond this, there are other ways for members to contribute, even if they are not a part of a standing committee. In 2025, we launched an IBS Volunteer Pool program, where those interested in assisting the Society on more of a short-term or ad hoc basis might help with meaningful projects, such as beta-testing a new website, reviewing or providing feedback on IBS publications, serving in a survey group, providing social media content, and much more. Most of the work done by these individuals will be project rather than term-based. But your efforts could still be quite meaningful to the Society. If you are interested in being a part of this volunteer pool, please reach out to ibs@biometricsociety.org. Thanks for considering!

This is by no means a comprehensive look at 2025, but I hope it shows how much your IBS staff appreciate the volunteer-staff partnership that has been built over these many years. I leave you now with a reminder to get involved, whether it's through your local Region or through our office. Members-at-Large even have opportunities to join in on our activities. Not sure where to start? Stop an IBS volunteer or staff person in the hallway in Seoul during 2026. Staff on site will have badges, so they will be easy to spot! I guarantee that we can find a spot and a purpose for you!

Best wishes,

Peter Doherty, CAE
Executive Director



VISIT IBS JOURNAL CLUB
FOR MORE INFORMATION

UPCOMING JOURNAL CLUB SESSION

SPLasso for High-dimensional Additive Hazards Regression with Covariate Measurement Error
(*Biometrics*, December 2025)

Speaker: Jinfeng Xu, PhD, Associate Professor,
City University of Hong Kong

Discussant: Grace Y. Yi, Professor,
University of Western Ontario

Your Research, Center Stage in Seoul

Held in Seoul, South Korea from 12 – 16 July, 2026, the International Biometric Conference (IBC) invites statisticians, mathematicians, biological scientists, post-docs, students, and interdisciplinary enthusiasts interested in fostering advancements in biometry and the biosciences. Learn more about the conference, the mixing of traditional and innovative new programming, special city tours and social events, and all of our activities by visiting www.ibc2026.org.

What to Expect:

- **Experience an international exchange of ideas in an intimate and welcoming environment.**
- **High-caliber research with a focus on biometry and statistics.**
- **Short courses, mentoring, and sessions designed for early-career and established professionals alike.**

New for 2026, the IBC brings you a wide *variety of showcases, keynotes, panels and other special sessions!

* The exact lineup is subject to change without notice.

Special Invited Session - Spotlight on the Korean Region

A session celebrating our host region and the Korean biostatistical community.

Women in Biostatistics Special Session

A celebration of the achievements and impact of women in biostatistics.

Bioethics Roundtable

A cross-disciplinary discussion exploring ethical considerations.

Stat In Practice Showcase

"Implementing causal discovery in epidemiological and clinical research"

Young Researchers Showcase and Panel

Research presentations and a live career panel with a focus on the next generation of biometricalians.

IBS Regional Networks Showcase

Highlights notable talks from members of the five IBS Regional Networks.

**Registration for
IBC2026 is now open**



Register Now

internationalbiometricsociety.regfox.com/33rd-international-biometric-conference-2026

Young Statisticians' Showcase (YSS)

Recognizes one award-winning young statistician from each of the five continental areas of the world.

ISI Young Ambassador to IBC Showcase

A featured session developed by the IBS in partnership with the International Statistical Institute.



The International Biometric Society (IBS) recently held two identical information sessions on its Mentoring Program to accommodate global time zones. Hosted by Mentoring Program Co-Chairs Tarylee Reddy and Louise Ryan, together with IBS Membership Manager Ryan Dee, the sessions attracted interest from members across several regions.

Launched in 2022 at the IBC in Riga, the program grew out of the 2020 website upgrade, which included a dedicated “mentor match module.” An international planning committee designed the platform, which automatically pairs mentors and mentees based on profiles and preferences. After more than two years of operation, a 2025 participant survey captured the overall experiences of the program, and led to these information sessions to explain the program more clearly.

Tarylee Reddy opened the session by highlighting the value of mentoring and that even highly successful careers involve challenges, tough decisions, and occasional setbacks. She shared that speaking with an experienced mentor provides perspective, builds confidence, sharpens soft skills, expands networks, and opens doors to new opportunities. In turn, mentors gain deep satisfaction from guiding the next generation.

She shared practical tips for successful pairings which included: Set clear goals and expectations from the start; Schedule regular check-ins; Give and receive honest feedback and embrace open communication as vulnerability fosters trust.

IBS Mentoring Program: INFORMATION SESSION SUMMARY

Ryan Dee then walked through the sign-up process on the newly updated IBS website:

1. Go to Community → Mentoring Program
2. Watch the short welcome video
3. Complete or update your IBS member profile (this is critical to ensure strong matches and receipt of email notifications)
4. Indicate broad rather than overly narrow preferences to maximize options
5. Click “Find mentors/mentees” to see suggested matches
6. Request your preferred match (after which the system notifies them for acceptance)
7. Once accepted, exchange direct contact details for easier ongoing communication

Tarylee added that the platform’s job ends once a match is made and that the real value comes from active engagement. The crucial first meeting should establish mutual expectations, meeting frequency, and preferred communication style.

She further highlighted that additional resources, including the new “IBS How To” video series, are available on the Mentoring Program page. The sessions ended with inspiring testimonials from mentors José Pinheiro and Jim Todd and mentees Carol Ogira and Brenda Yankam, then followed by a lively Q&A.

Whether you are early in your career or an experienced professional eager to give back, we warmly encourage you to join the IBS Mentoring Program today! Please visit the Digital Resource Library on the [IBS Mentoring webpage](#) for recordings of this session, as well as other Mentoring Program videos. You can read more in-depth about the informational sessions [here!](#)



Women's CORNER



Andrea Berghold
Medical University of Graz

Every generation has a responsibility to support the next generation, ensuring they are well prepared to take the lead in our communities one day. This is crucial for ensuring the sustainability of what we do. Supporting young statisticians is a key element of this. I would now like to share some thoughts on how the "Young Statisticians Session" was established at the conferences of the Austro-Swiss Region (ROeS), and how it has become an integral part of the conference programme. It all started in the '90s, when a few people came together and decided that it was important to give master's students an opportunity to present their thesis in a family setting. With this in mind, they organised a seminar called "The Young Statisticians Meeting" with students from Austria, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia. Croatia joined the group later.

Incidentally, the 29th Young Statisticians Meeting was held from 26-28 September 2025 in Basovizza (Trieste), Italy. I have been involved with this group since its inception and came up with the idea of suggesting a Young Statisticians Session for the regional meeting of the ROeS. I invited the best young statisticians, chosen by the organisers from the different countries, to present their work in a larger setting. The following announcement appeared in the 2003 ROeS newsletter: "There will be a special session with presentation by Young Statisticians from Slovenia, Hungary, Italy, and Austria in parallel to a contributed

paper session". We also included a young statistician from Switzerland, of course. Starting in 2003, it has become a ROeS conference tradition, and the last conference taking place in Graz from 15-18 September 2025 provided the Young Statisticians Session a prominent place in the conference programme. It was treated as an invited session, with no other sessions running in parallel. It is important to have incentives for the young statisticians such as waiving the conference fee, covering accommodation costs, and inviting them to the conference dinner. Over the years, the local organisers have had to sponsor these incentives. At this year's meeting, the ROeS assembly decided to cover these costs from the ROeS budget.

These sessions of course developed over time. There has been a shift from talks about master's theses to presentations on PhD topics. However, the quality of the presentations has always been high and has even improved over time. Initially, I was concerned that the topics discussed were from different areas, but it provides a good overview of the work being done in the region and beyond. There has always been a balanced representation of female and male presenters. The idea of promoting young statisticians was also taken into account at the first conference of the newly formed Central European network (CEN), which took place in Munich in 2008. It was great that, as a group, we decided to hold two sessions for young statisticians, including those from the German and Polish regions. Together with young colleagues from Germany I will start planning these two sessions for the upcoming CEN conference, which will take place from the 18-21 May 2026 in Warsaw, Poland.

In the meantime, some of the young statisticians have become professors, holding leading positions in industry and elsewhere. Some of them have joined the Austro-Swiss Region of the IBS and participate in a variety of activities. One such activity is the NextGen initiative which was established in 2022 by the BBS Section of the ROeS to further support young statisticians. It is very active today.

I believe that a Young Statistician Session is an excellent starting point for encouraging young people to become involved and engage with our networks, thereby advancing the field of biosciences. It is a valuable service to the next generation of statisticians. I would like to end with a quote from an email I received recently from a young statistician after the last ROeS conference: "Thanks again for organising and chairing the session! I enjoyed the conference very much and received plenty of valuable feedback :)" That is what matters.



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Priority: May 15, 2026

Final Deadline: June 15, 2026



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Donate to the IBS Travel Awards Fund BY 6 FEBRUARY 2026

The International Biometric Society Travel Awards Fund helps support the allocation of travel grants to a selected group of members from lower and middle-income countries (LMICs), with the goal of allowing them to travel to IBS Region and Network events during the current year.

We would greatly appreciate your donation 6 February 2026. Donations are now being accepted online at our [Donations page](#).

You may be interested to know that the Society has instituted a matching funds policy. For every dollar (USD) an individual, company, IBS Region or IBS Network donates, IBS will match it up to \$20,000. This gives us the opportunity to fund more travel,

bringing professionals from eligible countries together at [IBC2026](#) to collaborate, share knowledge, learn new perspectives and build lifelong friendships!

Donations are vital to the continued success of this program, as the IBS is typically able to fund less than half of the applicants who apply. Donations also foster our membership growth in LMICs and serve our global audience. Please donate today. Note that all funds donated are passed along to eligible members, and each donation received from an individual or region will be acknowledged with a note of appreciation and a receipt. Please contact us directly at ibs@biometricsociety.org with any questions related to tax deductions or related matters.

Read about the impact that the Travel Awards have had on award recipients.

I was deeply honored to receive the IBS 2025 Travel Award, a recognition that provided me with the valuable opportunity to attend the SUSAN Conference. This award not only supported my participation but also reflected the International Biometric Society's commitment to fostering the professional growth of early-career biometricalians. The financial support significantly eased the challenges of international travel and allowed me to fully engage in all aspects of the conference.

Receiving the IBS 2025 Travel Award was a great honor and a motivating milestone in my academic journey. I am sincerely grateful to the International Biometric Society for supporting my participation through the IBS 2025 Travel Award and for its continued commitment to empowering early-career researchers across Africa. I look forward to contributing to this vibrant community and to future IBS events.

**-Ashefet
Ethiopian Region**

I am deeply grateful to have been a recipient of the International Biometric Society Travel Award, which enabled me to attend the 19th Biennial Conference of the Sub-Saharan Network (SUSAN) of the IBS, held from 3-8 September 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The experience was both professionally enriching and personally rewarding.

A particularly impactful moment was participating in a panel discussion on the challenges faced by young statisticians in Sub-Saharan Africa. It was enlightening to learn how similar these challenges are across countries, and inspiring to hear the range of innovative solutions proposed—underscoring the importance of collaboration in advancing our field.

I am sincerely thankful to the IBS Travel Award Committee for this opportunity. The experience has significantly shaped my professional journey and reinforced my commitment to contributing to the growth and visibility of the statistical community in the region.

**-Antony
Kenyan Region**

Editorial UPDATES

BIOMETRICS



Geert Molenberghs
Biometrics Executive Editor

Recent papers in Biometrics

Papers in the December 2025 and further issues of Biometrics:

<https://biometrics.biometricsociety.org/home/papers-to-appear>

Among the resources available here, you will find a list of papers to appear in future issues of the Journal. You can also visit the journal via Oxford University Press:

<https://academic.oup.com/biometrics/issue>

Many people have institutional access. However, all members have full access in the following way. Navigate to the IBS web pages at:

<https://www.biometricsociety.org/home>

Once logged on, go to “Publications” and select “Biometrics.” You will have full access to the current and preceding volumes, whether articles are Open Access or not. In particular, we would like to draw your attention to a discussion paper, entitled “Causal inference with misspecified network interference structure,” by Bar Weinstein and Daniel Nevo, and with discussions by Fei Fang and Laura Forastiere; Chan Park and Hyunseung Kang; Fredrik Sävje; Daniel Malinsky.

Submissions to the Journal

The number of submissions to Biometrics is at a record high. Over the last decade, we received roughly between 550 and 650 submissions a year, with the first pandemic year 220 at a record high at the time, with 709 submissions. However, over the first eleven months of 2025 alone we are already reaching about 700 submissions. May and November 2025 saw around 75 submissions each,



with also August 2025 very high (71). These are record months, not only over the last decade, but over the nearly 80 years of the journal's history!

Transition between Co-editors from Outside North America and Europe

With the year 2025 drawing to a close, Matt Schofield's (Australasian Region, New Zealand) Co-editor term is coming to an end. Matt has served as CE for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025. We wholeheartedly thank Matt for outstanding service to the journal and the Society. On 1 January 2026, Matt will hand over to Jessica Kasza (Australasian Region, Australia). Her Co-editor term runs through the end of 2028. The continuing Co-editors are Erica Moodie (ENAR, Canada, for North America until the end of 2026) and Cécile Proust-Lima (French Region, for Europe, until the end of 2027). Early in 2026, a Search Committee will be established to identify Erica Moodie's successor.

Geert Molenberghs
Biometrics Executive Editor

THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS (JABES)



Jorge Mateu
Editor-in-Chief

1. We have just closed the special issue "The Next Wave of Statistical Learning for Spatial Functional Data Analysis." Spatial Functional Data Analysis (SFDA) is a branch of statistics that focuses on analyzing data where there are both spatial dependencies and functional (or infinite-dimensional) structures. In this type of analysis, each observation is not a scalar or vector, but a function (or curve) observed over a spatial domain. This kind of data is commonly encountered in scientific fields such as environmental science, climatology, and neuroimaging, where measurements are continuously recorded over time or space, resulting in complex data structures. Initially, SFDA primarily utilized traditional functional data analysis techniques extended to spatial settings. However, as the applications of SFDA became more complex, the need for advanced techniques led to the development of a second-generation framework. This newer framework is designed to handle the increasing complexity of spatial dependencies, non-linear dynamics, high-dimensionality, and multi-resolution data. Guest Editors are: (a) Elvira Romano, Department of Mathematics and Physics, University of Campania & Luigi Vanvitelli; Caserta, Italy; (b) Fabrizio Maturo, Department of Economics, Statistics and Business, Faculty of Technological and Innovation Sciences, Universitas Mercatorum Rome, Italy; (c) Antonio Irpino, Department of Mathematics and Physics, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli," Caserta, Italy

2. The winners of the Best Paper published in JABES in 2024 are:

Winner: Spatial Wildfire Risk Modeling Using a Tree-Based Multivariate Generalized Pareto

Mixture Model. Daniela Cisneros, Arnab Hazra, Raphaël Huser

[JABES, 29, 2 (2024) pages 320-345]

Honorable Mention: Two Gaussian Regularization Methods for Time-Varying Networks

Jie Jian, Peijun Sang, Mu Zhu

[JABES, 29, 4 (2024) pages 853-873]

We are now preparing the next Award for the Best Paper 2025, which will be made known in January 2026.

3. The plans for JABES into the first semester of 2026 are increasing visibility and attracting top authors on trending topics. In addition, at JABES we aim to have one discussion paper per year led by top known researchers on particular topics. The end of the EiC term for Jorge Mateu is approaching, and we have a new appointed EiC, Murali Haran at PennState University, starting 1 January 2026.

4. Focused JABES sessions will be organized at both JSM and IBC 2026 conferences. These sessions will present the winning papers in 2024, and some additional selected papers from 2025 Issues.

5. Some Journal Statistics for Q1-Q3 2025:

- 36 Articles Published Online (2025 Online Article Budget: 51 Articles)
- 347 Submissions (An increase from 271 Submissions in Q1-Q3 2024, and 243 Submissions in Q1-Q3 2023)
- Average of 23 Days from Submission to First Decision for Q1-Q3 2025 (On par with 23 days in Q1-Q3 2024, and a decrease from 27 days in Q1-Q3 2023)
- 127,524 Article Downloads for Q1-Q3 2025 (An increase from 105,308 in Q1-Q3 2024 and 113,184 in Q1-Q3 2023)
- 2024 Impact Factor: 1.1 (104 Citations from 95 Articles). 2023 Impact Factor: 1.4 (112 Citations from 78 Articles)
- 2024 h5-Index: 20; 2023 h5-Index: 18; 2024 h5-Median: 27; 2023 h5-Median: 24

6. December 2025 issue at JABES, Volume 30 (4), is the following:

Pages 887-902 Impact of the Removal of Genotypes on the Formation of Mega-Environments Based on GGE Biplots Analysis

Tays Silva Batista, Luiz Alexandre Peternelli, Wagner Faria Barbosa, Antônio Policarpo Souza, Carneiro, Felipe Lopes da Silva

Pages 903-918 Modeling First Arrival of Migratory

Birds Using a Hierarchical Max-Infinity Divisible Process

Dhanushi A. Wijeyakulasuriya, Ephraim M. Hanks, Benjamin A. Shaby

Pages 919-941 A Robust Proposal for Heteroscedastic Dose-Response Models with an Application to Interaction Analysis

Ana M. Bianco, Gabriela Chaufan, Isis Coalova, Marina Valdora

Pages 942-965 CMPL: Correlation Modeling to Decode Photosynthesis Using the Minorize-Maximize Algorithm

Abhijnan Chattopadhyay, Donghee Hoh, David M. Kramer, Tapabrata Maiti, Samiran Sinha

Pages 966-982 Non-stationary Extensions of the Diffusion-Based Gaussian Matérn Field for Ecological Applications

Juan Francisco Mandujano Reyes, Ian P. McGahan, Ting Fung Ma, Anne E. Ballmann, Daniel P. Walsh, Jun Zhu

Pages 983-1002 Efficient Augmented Block Designs for Unreplicated Test Treatments Along with Replicated Controls

Rahul Mukerjee

Pages 1003-1018 Subsample Selection Methods in the Lake Management

Vilja Koski, Salme Kärkkäinen, Juha Karvanen

Pages 1019-1038 Regression Tree and Clustering for Distributions, and Homogeneous Structure of Population Characteristics

Mihoko Minami, Cleridy E. Lennert-Cody

Pages 1039-1067 A Bayesian Analysis of Vegetable Production in Japan

Akira Hibiki, Koji Miyawaki

Pages 1068-1093 Hierarchical Bayesian Integrated Modeling of Age- and Sex-Structured Wildlife Population Dynamics

Sabyasachi Mukhopadhyay, Hans-Peter Piepho, Sourabh Bhattacharya, Holly T. Dublin, Joseph O. Ogutu

Pages 1094-1110 A Comparison of Bayesian Approximation Methods for Analyzing Large Spatial Skewed Data

Paritosh Kumar Roy, Alexandra M. Schmidt

Pages 1111-1130 Functional Principal Component Analysis for Multiple Variables on Different Riemannian Manifolds

Haixu Wang, Jiguo Cao

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. We 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 Vanda Inacio de Carvahlo (vanda.inacio@ed.ac.uk), University of Edinburgh, UK.

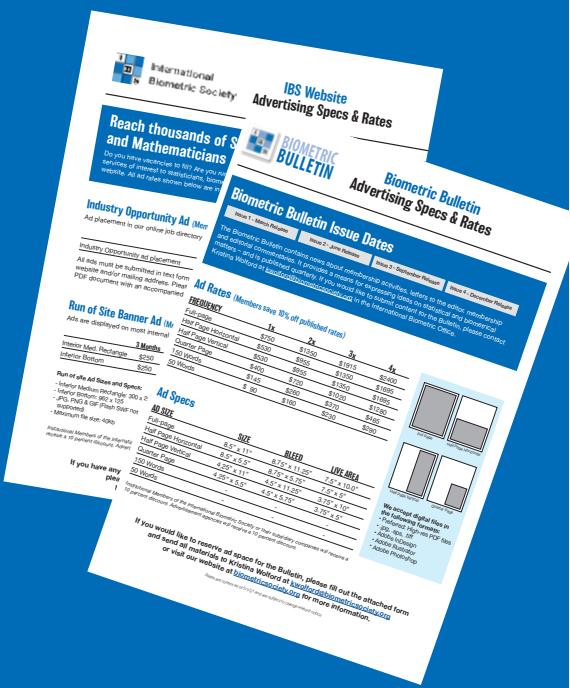
Jorge Mateu
Editor-in-Chief



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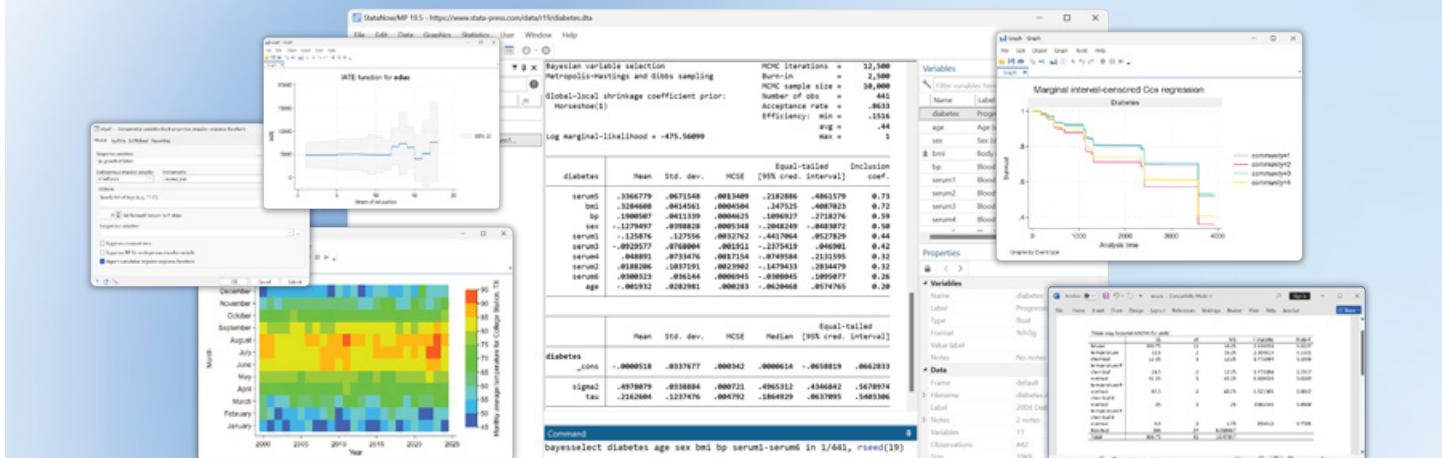
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STRengthening Analytical Thinking for Observational Studies (STRATOS):

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES (THE SISAQOL-IMI PROJECT).

Saskia le Cessie 1,2,3 , Satrajit Roychoudhury 4 , Jammbe Z. Musoro 5 , Madeline Pe 5 Ahu Alanya 5 , Cecilia

Delphin Amdal 6,7 , Dries Reynders 3 , Doranne Thomassen 1 , Willi Sauerbrei 8 , Els Goetghebeur 3

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2. Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands.

3. Department of Applied Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics, Ghent University, Belgium.

4. Pfizer Inc, US.

5. European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium.

6. Research Support Services, Oslo University Hospital, Norway.

7. Department of Oncology, Oslo University Hospital, Norway.

8. Institute of Medical Biometry and Statistics, Faculty of Medicine and Medical Center - University of Freiburg, Germany.

In a previous article in *Biometric Bulletin* (2024, 41(3)), we described the involvement of the STRATOS initiative in the SISAQOL-IMI Consortium. The SISAQOL-IMI Consortium, which started in 2021, aims to develop standards for designing, analysing, presenting and interpreting health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and patient-reported outcome (PRO) data in cancer clinical trials (1) . Recently,

the SISAQOL-IMI consortium delivered its final recommendations (2) . In this article we describe these results with an emphasis of the contribution of STRATOS members. SISAQOL-IMI is an international, multidisciplinary consortium, involving regulatory agencies, health technology assessment bodies, the pharmaceutical industry, and academic and professional societies alongside experts in statistics, PRO measurement, clinical oncology, and patient advocacy.

The project is led by the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and the pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim AG. SISAQOL-IMI work was organized into several work packages, including methodology for cancer randomized controlled trials (RCTs), feasibility of recommendations for single-arm trials (SAT), guidance on clinically meaningful change in cancer trials, and communication tools for PRO findings in cancer trials. STRATOS contributed primarily in the work package 3 (WP3) on SAT. The WP3 was led by Saskia le Cessie (STRATOS member) and Satrajit Roychoudhury (Pfizer Inc.), Els Goetghebeur and Willi Sauerbrei actively participated in this WP. Four junior researchers attached to STRATOS TG7 members played an important role in the development of the work and became (joint) first authors on at least one of the papers. Doranne Thomasson recently became a new STRATOS member herself.

SATs play an increasingly important role in cancer research. However, SATs face specific challenges

due to the absence of a randomized control group, which may limit the interpretation and conclusions. SISAQOL-IMI WP3 investigated the feasibility of using PROs in SATs and developed recommendations for the use of PROs in non-randomized cancer studies with a specific focus on SATs. The work resulted in four publications.

The first paper contained the results of an extensive literature review focusing on design and reporting of PRO in SATs (3). It showed that PRO objectives in SATs were often unclear or not mentioned at all. Moreover, the methods to address missing data or intercurrent events were not properly specified or not justified. Finally, PROs were rarely collected after patients stopped treatment. All together this may generate vague results and unclear conclusions. Based on these

findings we recommend using the ICH-E9 (R1) estimand framework for SAT as well (4). This framework allows PRO objectives to be translated into key research questions of interest, including pre-specified strategies to handle intercurrent events, and providing an appropriate summary measure for precise description of treatment effect.

By means of a case study, the second paper outlines the meaning and impact of the estimand framework in the analysis of longitudinal PRO data in a SAT (5). It demonstrated that different strategies for handling intercurrent events can lead to substantially different results and conclusions, even in a descriptive setting. In particular, addressing death should be carefully considered in advance, because PROs after death are not defined. The chosen strategy should be defined prior to analysis in line with the pre-defined PRO objective.

The third paper focused on imputation of the missing data in PRO measurements in SATs (6). Missing PRO data are challenging because missingness may be related to a patients' disease status and the corresponding patient experience. Information on intercurrent events (e.g., death, disease progression) may therefore support the reconstruction of unobserved PRO values. The paper developed imputation models for repeated PRO measurements that incorporated information from intercurrent events. A key message of this paper was that the missing-data model should be separated from the analysis model, when missingness is related to intercurrent events. Sensitivity analyses should be conducted to assess the impact of assumptions made about missing data mechanisms.

The fourth paper examined the use of external control data in SAT (7). Use of appropriate external data may address some of the concerns of SATs where a control group is lacking. However, choosing a relevant estimand for the comparison, and appropriate accounting for confounding and differing study drop-out remain challenging. The paper focused on settings with substantial mortality and emphasized the importance of a two-dimensional estimand, consisting of survival over time and mean PROs while alive. Two different methods for estimation under 'no unmeasured (time-varying) confounding' have been considered: a regression-standardization approach and a double re-weighting approach to account for differences in baseline-case-mix and censoring over time. Both performed well in simulations and on a case study comparing the treated SAT with the control arm of an existing RCT. A sensitivity analysis comparing the SAT with the treated arm of the RCT was consistent with the assumptions made. Key messages were that 1) the two-dimensional causal estimand is meaningful in the presence of a terminal event and 2) adapted sensitivity analyses are warranted when estimating treatment effects from SATs with an external control. After several rounds of formulating recommendation statements, followed by annual consensus discussions and revisions, WP3 formulated a final set of recommendations for SATs. This was done in close collaboration with the other work packages, particularly the work package on RCTs, because many recommendations apply to both SATs and RCTs. Accordingly, recommendations for RCTs and SATs were aligned and harmonized wherever appropriate. In total there are 43 WP3 recommendations and space allotted to this article does not allow us to discuss all recommendations in detail. However, we highlight the following key points:

1. SATs should have pre-specified PRO objectives that should be translated into key clinical questions using the estimand framework.
2. PRO objectives in SATs can be descriptive or confirmatory. The analysis strategy should be aligned with the research question using the estimand framework to address the question of interest. Comparisons can be made using change from baseline or a suitable external control. Appropriate steps should be taken in the design and conduct to reduce bias and avoid misleading interpretations. The absence of randomization and blinding should be addressed and alternative identifying assumptions discussed.

3. There are different strategies to handle death in single-arm trials. The chosen strategy should be defined prior to analysis in line with the pre-defined PRO objective. For example, when describing PROs over time, the while-alive strategy is generally preferred. The population-level summary for this approach includes the PRO score of participants alive and descriptive statistics about death, such as the proportion of patients still alive at the time point of assessment.

4. Researchers should clearly specify which strategies of the estimand framework are used for the intercurrent events and how missing values are handled. The plausibility of the underlying assumptions on which the analysis method relies and whether the result is still in line with the intended estimand should be examined.

Alongside with the pivotal SISAQOL-IMI publication (2), which explains how the recommendations were developed and presents the key scientific results, the SISAQOL-IMI website offers practical tools to help users easily find and apply the recommendations that best suit their needs (<https://www.sisaqol-imi.org/>). For example, the online interactive table allows stakeholders to identify relevant recommendations based on the type of trial (RCT vs. SAT), the objective of the trial (confirmatory vs. descriptive), and the type of PRO endpoint (e.g., responder analysis vs. time-to-event analysis). The online interactive glossary provides scientific and plain language definitions of key terminology, to facilitate understanding across diverse audiences. Finally, an interactive guidebook provides guidance on how to navigate both online tools, while also providing additional information on the goals and methodology of SISAQOL-IMI. In summary, this collaboration across many different disciplines has produced a set of clear, well-considered recommendation statements with broad acceptance for the use of PROs in cancer studies. We hope that these recommendations will contribute to improved design, analysis and reporting of studies involving patient-reported outcomes.

1. Pe M, Alanya A, Falk RS, Amdal CD, Bjordal K, Chang J, et al. Setting International Standards in Analyzing Patient-Reported Outcomes and Quality of Life Endpoints in Cancer Clinical Trials-Innovative Medicines Initiative (SISAQOL-IMI): stakeholder views, objectives, and procedures. *Lancet Oncol.* 2023;24(6):e270-e83.
2. Amdal CD, Falk RS, Alanya A, Schlichting M, Roychoudhury S, Bhatnagar V, et al. SISAQOL-

IMI consensus-based guidelines to design, analyse, interpret, and present patient-reported outcomes in cancer clinical trials. *Lancet Oncol.* 2025;26(12):e683-e93.

3. Liu L, Choi J, Musoro JZ, Sauerbrei W, Amdal CD, Alanya A, et al. Single-arm studies involving patient-reported outcome data in oncology: a literature review on current practice. *Lancet Oncol.* 2023;24(5):e197-e206.
4. Agency EM. ICH E9 (R1) addendum on estimands and sensitivity analysis in clinical trials to the guideline on statistical principles for clinical trials. 2020 [Available from: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/scientific-guideline/ich-e9-r1-addendum-estimands-sensitivity-analysis-clinical-trials-guideline-statistical-principles_en.pdf]
5. Thomassen, D., Roychoudhury, S., Amdal, C. D., Reynders, D., Musoro, J. Z., Sauerbrei, W., Goetghebeur E, le Cessie, S. (2024). The role of the estimand framework in the analysis of patient-reported outcomes in single-arm trials: a case study in oncology. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 24(1), 290.
6. Thomassen, D., Roychoudhury, S., Amdal, C. D., Reynders, D., Musoro, J. Z., Sauerbrei, W., Goetghebeur E, Le Cessie, S. (2025). Handling missing values in patient-reported outcome data in the presence of intercurrent events. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 25(1), 56.
7. Reynders D, Thomassen D, Roychoudhury S, Amdal CD, Musoro J Z, Sauerbrei W, le Cessie S, Goetghebeur E (2025). Evaluating treatment effects on longitudinal outcomes with attrition due to death: Methods for a two-dimentional estimand with a case study in Quality of Life. arXiv preprint arXiv:2509.25548 and submitted.

Call for nominations:

ROUSSEEUW PRIZE FOR STATISTICS 2026

Statistics is a cornerstone of science, health, industry, economics, government and more, and benefits society as a whole. The Rousseeuw Prize for Statistics awards pioneering work in statistical methodology. The prize recognizes a statistical innovation, that is, an outstanding contribution or tool that has had significant impact and found wide application in statistical practice. The biennial Rousseeuw Prize for Statistics is awarded by the King Baudouin Foundation (<https://www.kbs-frb.be/en/about-us>), a large public utility foundation in Belgium. The prize is named after its sponsor, the statistician Peter J. Rousseeuw. The prize focuses on the innovation rather than on a single individual. This allows recognition of several individuals who made significant contributions to it. One of the goals of awarding the people who created such an innovation, is to promote awareness of the important role and intellectual content of statistics and its profound impact on human endeavors.

The first two prizes have been awarded in 2022 and 2024, and the next will be awarded in 2026. The award amount is one million US dollars, to be split over awardees if there are several, which it is hoped will typically be the case. The award ceremony will be scheduled in the fall of 2026. For the purpose of the prize, statistics is defined as the science and technology of obtaining useful information from data, taking its variability into account. Statistical work in the above sense can be found under a variety of flags, such as artificial intelligence, big data, biometrics, chemometrics, classification, data analysis, data mining, data science, data visualization, design of experiments, econometrics, environmetrics, machine learning, multivariate analysis, pattern recognition, psychometrics, quality assurance, quantitative finance, sociometrics,

statistical computing, statistical learning, technometrics, time series analysis, etc. Likewise, there is no age limit on awardees. The awardees must be living persons, not organizations. If one of the main contributors is no longer alive, the surviving author(s) of the joint work can still be awarded. The deceased contributor(s) will of course be named explicitly. The King Baudouin Foundation appoints an international jury consisting of ten reputed statisticians. The jury will make a ranked shortlist of 3 options, in case some awardees do not accept the prize or are unwilling to be present at the award ceremony. To avoid undue pressure on the jury, its members are anonymous while they do their work.

The selection of the award is aimed to be impartial and balanced. The members of the jury may not be related to the people on the shortlist by family ties, past or present life partner, PhD advisor-student, or being a co-author in the last 15 years. When selecting the award topic and awardees, the jury takes into account important contributions and contributors irrespective of gender, race, sexual orientation, ideology, or religion.

The nominations, including letters of recommendation, are to be submitted by 28 February 2026 on the website <https://www.rousseeuwprize.org> which contains all information about the prize and nomination procedure.



Regional NEWS

Australasian (AR)

Conference:

The 2025 Australasian Biometrics Conference, Biometrics in the Bush Capital, was held from 24–28 November in Canberra. Hosted at the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, the meeting featured a diverse scientific program including keynote presentations from Cheng Soon Ong (CSIRO and ANU), Heather L. Turner (University of Warwick), Mevin B. Hooten (The University of Texas at Austin), Jesse Goodman (University of Auckland) and Charmaine B. Dean (University of Waterloo). Further conference information can be found At: <https://biometricsociety.org.au/conference2025/>



IBS-AR conference delegates at the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia.

Student Scholarships:

This year, the committee was supportive of awarding scholarships to three worthy candidates. Congratulations to Carlo Gamble (Otago University), Jiazhe (Jenny) Lin (ANU) and Max Coten (UWA).

Annual General Meeting:

The AGM saw a variety of issues discussed, the most important of these being the election of office holders and the selection of the next conference location. David Warton was nominated as the President elect, with Alison Kelly to become the outgoing President. The next regional conference, Biometrics by the Bridge will be held in Sydney in late 2027.

Charley Ann Budgeon
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

Brazilian (RBras)

On behalf of the Brazilian Region, our Representative Council members for the next term are as follows. Paulo Canas Rodrigues will be reappointed for a new term and Agatha Sacramento Rodrigues will be appointed as a new member, replacing Renato Martins Assunção, whose term will end on 30 June 2025.

Diogo Francisco Rossoni
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

British and Irish (BIR)

11th Annual Meeting on Current Developments in Cluster Randomised Trials and Stepped Wedge Designs

This hybrid event took place in Birmingham on 18–19 November and was jointly organised by the BIR-IBS, the University of Birmingham and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, with the support of the Centre for Data and Statistical Science for Health (DASH).

The event ran smoothly and in a very friendly environment, with a total of 69 participants (42 attended in person and 27 online via Teams). Participants included academics, statisticians from industry and NGOs, clinicians, and students from 11 different countries, all sharing a common interest in the design, conduct, and analysis of cluster randomised and stepped-wedge trials.

The event started with an inspiring guest lecture from Professor Andrew Copas (University College London) on the challenges of running multiple adaptive trials using the same clusters. The presentation sparked interesting discussions and was a fitting introduction to the first of eight contributed sessions scheduled over two days. The sessions were organised by theme and covered topics such as implementation, sample size calculation, estimands, analysis methods, and alternative trial designs. Speakers at all career stages were represented, and the quality of the presentations was excellent, leading to stimulating discussions and potential new collaborations.

The event concluded with a presentation by Professor Richard Hooper (Queen Mary University London) on the future of this event, given its success this year and participants' enthusiasm. A similar hybrid event will take place in 2027 in London and will be combined with the UK-based Conference on Stepped Wedge Trial Design. Stay tuned!



11th Annual Meeting participants

Dr Kirsty Hassall, PhD
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

Central American-Caribbean (RCAC)

The International Biometric Society (IBS) Central American and Caribbean (RCAC) Region continued to hold its monthly "Get to Know" series, a meeting where a scholar from a region is invited to present his/herself and get introduced to fellow members in the region. This quarter, a meeting was held on 1 October 2025, when Ms Julieth Lopez, PhD student in Biotechnology at Universidad Nacional de Colombia - Bogotá campus spoke on "Gene Regulatory network methods and the CZI Jaguar Project." The second meeting in the series was held on 5 November, 2025. Dr. Michelle Guevara-Nieto, former PhD student in Oncology at Universidad Nacional de Colombia - Bogotá campus spoke on "Identification of predictive biomarkers of response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy in patients with invasive breast cancer. Dr Vrijesh Tripathi was part of three poster presentations, two of which were made at the Principal's Research Day held at The University of the West Indies from 27–28 November 2025. These were titled A Gamma-Weibull (G-W) Frailty Regression Model Analysis of Cataract Surgical Data prepared by Ebiakpo-aboere Sonron, Shikhar Tyagi, Seetharaman Hariharan, and Vrijesh Tripathi; and on Forecasting Sectoral Water Demand in Trinidad: Comparative Time-Series and Hybrid Modelling by Aruna Rajballie, Vrijesh Tripathi, Shikhar Tyagi, and Amarnath Chinchamee. Another poster presentation was made at the National Health Research Conference at the Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain, Trinidad and the abstract has been published in the West Indian Medical Journal, vol 72 (Suppl.2): pp 47 titled Middle old Trinidadian community dwellers are at risk of Mild Frailty based on IADL screen by G. K. Davis, V. Tripathi and N. Baboolal.

The following publications have been made by members of IBS RCAC:

Prof. Oscar Espinosa, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

1. Espinosa, O., Smith, A., Bejarano, V., García-Ruiz, J. (2025). Differences between male and female mortality in Colombia: a population-based analysis since 1980. *The Lancet Regional Health - Americas*, 52, 101263, <https://doi.org/101263>. 10.1016/j.lana.2025.101263

2. Espinosa, O., Buitrago, G., Bejarano, V., Castaño, R. (2025). Lorenz curves of urban and rural health care expenditure in Colombia: analysis of a cohort of 4.6 million patients. *Health Economics Review*, 15, 74. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13561-025-00662-3>

3. Puentes, G., Espinosa, O., Gutiérrez, J. (2025). Generative artificial intelligence and scientific integrity. *Revista Colombiana Cardiología*, 32(4): 282-283. <https://doi.org/10.24875/RCCAR.25000007>

4. Espinosa, O., Suárez-Morales, Z., Álvarez, V., Bejerano, V., Torres, M., Luna, J. (2025). Sociodemographic characterization of domestic service workers in Colombia: a 10-year analytical-descriptive study. *Discover Social Science and Health*, 5, 122. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44155-025-00279-1>

5. Espinosa, O., Friebel, R., Bejarano, V., & García-Ruiz, J. (2025). Estimating inequalities in excess mortality and years of potential life lost by health conditions across ethnic minorities in Colombia: a population-based study, 2018-2022. *BMJ Open* 15(7), e098028. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2024-098028>

Dr Vrijesh Tripathi, The University of the West Indies

6. Suepaul R, Mohammed A, Gottdenker NL, Pargass I, Oura C, Ramsuhag A, Gyan L, Tripathi V, Peterson JK. First report of canine Chagas Disease on the Caribbean Island of Trinidad. *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz*, 2025, Vol 120. DOI: 10.1590/0074-02760250199.

7. Suepaul R, Mohammed A, Gottdenker NL, Oura C, Ramsuhag A, Tripathi V, Khan R, Peterson JK. Chagas disease in Trinidad and Tobago - a call to action. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* 2025, 119(9):999-1015.

8. Lakhan C, Badrie N, Ramsuhag A, Tripathi V, Bajpai R, Indar L. Acute gastroenteritis in Trinidad and Tobago: identifying trend by season, geography, and demographics from 2006 to 2023. *IJID Regions* 2025, Vol 17. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijregi.2025.100785>.

Vrijesh Tripathi, PhD

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent (RCAC)
05 December, 2025

- The 11th Channel Network Conference (CNC), in partnership with the IBS regions of Belgium, Great Britain/Ireland, and the Netherlands, to be held in Rennes in 2027.

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

Anne Thiebaut

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

German (DR)

From Evidence Synthesis to Precision Medicine: An Interdisciplinary Perspective Two working groups of the German Region met with two each of GMDS and DGEpi 20-21 November 2025, in Bielefeld. Fifty participants were intrigued by the state of the art in precision medicine and meta-analysis. Keynote lecture “Evidence based diagnostics: not one size fits all” was delivered by Mariska Leeflang (Amsterdam UMC) and “Empirically assessing the benefits of precision medicine-Meta-regression approaches” by Oliver Kuß (German Diabetes Center). The contributed talks were:

Jonas Frost (Halle): Increasing response to questionnaires in a digital health cohort using non-monetary motivational incentives: a randomised factorial trial. Oliver Kuß (Düsseldorf): How many subgroup analyses are false(-positive or -negative) in diabetes research? – Evidence from CVOTs, p-value distributions and mixture models. Sophie Schmiegel (Bielefeld): Modeling the effectiveness of antibiotic therapies against sepsis using continuous-time hidden Markov models. Jennifer Pohle (Berlin): Statistical methods for quality assurance and transparency in healthcare. Juliana Schneider (Potsdam): Evaluating imputation performance for missingness in adaptive N-of-1 trials. Lukas Mischinger (Munich): Subgroup analysis in diagnostic test accuracy meta-analysis: A systematic review. Daniel Dümmeler (Münster): Statistical methods for the analysis of diagnostic test accuracy in clustered data settings-A systematic review of methods. Alexander Hapfelmeier (Munich): Diagnostic test accuracy meta-analysis with multiple thresholds: New methods and implications for practice using the example of an anxiety questionnaire. Ulrich Gehrman (MD Bund): Binary meta-analysis with rare events – Pooling of studies within strata of randomization ratios.

French (RF)

The French Region of the IBS (Société Française de Biométrie, SFB) will hold its annual general meeting virtually 15 January 2025 at 3 pm CET.

Upcoming events include:

- The biennial Daniel Schwartz dissertation prize, to be awarded during the Young Researchers Day in early 2027 (call for applications to be announced, deadline early September 2025);



Participants of the workshop at Bielefeld University

The book of abstracts is available [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

26 February 2026, at Hannover University of Applied Sciences

Annual workshop of the working group Teaching and Didactics of Biometry "Between minimum and maximum: The teaching of Statistics in programs applying it." Abstracts are due until 10 January to Ursula.Berger@LMU.de or Carolin.Herrmann@HHU.de. Flyer https://www.biometrische- gesellschaft.de/fileadmin/AG_Daten/LehreDidaktik/PDFs/AGWorkshop_2026_Einladung.pdf

18-21 May 2026, at Warsaw (Poland)

72th Biometric Colloquium as part of the 6th Conference of the Central European Network: "Power of Data – Shaping the Future of Life Sciences" cen2026.org

2-3 June 2026, in Newcastle (UK)

Workshop of working group Adaptive Designs and Multiple Testing Procedures. Abstracts due 31 January 2026. Registration starts 5 January 2026.

1 June 1 2026, half-day courses "Practitioner's View of Adaptive Designs" and "Designing better trials: Advanced randomization methods for modern clinical research"

23-26 June 2026: [Summer School 2026 "Surrogate Endpoint Evaluation in Clinical Trials."](#) with Geert Molenberghs (Hasselt & Leuven), Ariel Alonso (Leuven) and Wim Van der Elst (J&J). Registration before 1 February 2026.

20-24 March 2028 at Bremen

74th Biometric Colloquium as part of the DAGStat Conference
Location: Bremen

Reinhard Vonthein
Bulletin Correspondent

Japanese (JR)

The 2025 Biometric Seminar

The Biometric Seminar entitled "Current status of regenerative medicine and small-sample clinical trials" and "Mathematical foundations of high-dimensional data analysis and its biomedical applications" will be held on 12 December 2025 both on-site at Chuo University and on-line. The lectures covered a wide range of topics including regenerative medicine, statistical consideration of small-sample clinical trials, and high-dimensional data analysis.

Koji Oba

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

Namibia (NAM)



IBS Officers attend the launch of IBS Namibia and Africa Statistics Day.

Tarylee Reddy

The Netherlands (BMS-ANed)

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

In this issue, we are reporting on the events we hosted this fall. On 4 November, we held the 12th session of our online Biostatistics Seminar Series. This edition featured Professor Jonathan Bartlett (London School of Hygiene Tropical Medicine), who presented on the G-formula for causal inference in the context of missing data and synthetic multiple imputation. The 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. Our next online seminars in Biostatistics will be announced soon.

Two weeks later on 20 November, all PhD students in Statistics across the Netherlands were invited to our PhD day in the Radboud University in Nijmegen. This event—organized for PhD students by PhD students—focused on skills valuable during your doctoral studies and throughout a career in biostatistics. There were sessions on good coding skills, communication with non-statisticians, how to get your paper accepted, and the presentation of an AI screening tool for systematic reviews. The day concluded with informal drinks, a great opportunity to meet students from other universities and exchange experiences.

Lastly, we like to provide an update on the special issue from Statistica Neerlandica, dedicated to biostatistics: Survival Analysis, beyond the Cox model. This issue aims to showcase new developments in this area of research. The submission deadline is now closed, and we are currently reviewing all the great research that has been submitted.

Jonathan Bartlett: Screenshot of the online seminar.



PhD Day: Rogier Donders presenting on communication skills



PhD day: Richard Bartels on good coding skills

Western North American (WNAR)

2026 WNAR/IMS meeting

The 2026 WNAR/IMS meeting will be in Pullman, WA, at Washington State University from 14-17 June 2026. Washington State University in Pullman offers a beautiful summer setting for a conference, combining the energy of a vibrant campus with the charm of the surrounding Palouse region. Warm, sunny days highlight the rolling hills of wheat fields that create one of the most picturesque landscapes in the Pacific Northwest. Attendees can enjoy strolls through WSU's scenic campus, visit the renowned Bear Center or the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, and experience the lively downtown Pullman with its local shops and eateries. Just beyond Pullman, opportunities abound for outdoor recreation, from hiking and biking trails to nearby rivers.

and lakes, making it an ideal destination where academic engagement meets the natural beauty and hospitality of Eastern Washington. There will be short courses, a plenary lecture, invited and contributed sessions, young investigator events, and a Student Paper Award with oral sessions. Email programchair@wnar.org or wnar@wnar.org with questions. Registration information and other details about the meeting will be available on the WNAR web page <http://www.wnar.org/wnar2026>.

2026 WNAR/IMS Session Proposals

Invited session proposals are due 9 January 2026. Contributed session proposals are due February 5, 2026. Please see <http://www.wnar.org/wnar2026> for details and submission forms. Email programchair@wnar.org with questions. 2026 WNAR Expanding Opportunities Workshop The WNAR Expanding Opportunities Workshop is a satellite workshop held in conjunction with WNAR for underrepresented students, and it emphasizes the importance of mentorship and belonging in the health and science fields. In 2026, the workshop will be opened to high school students from the region's Native American tribal communities. It is organized by the WNAR Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee and the WNAR Leadership Committee. Please consider donating to support this cause.

2026 WNAR Student Paper Competition

WNAR sponsors students who enter the student

paper competition. All WNAR-region entrants receive their registration fees and banquet dinner ticket for free. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the best papers in written and oral competitions. Information on the 2026 WNAR Student Paper Competition, registration information, and program details for the meeting will be posted as they become available. Student paper abstracts are due 5 February 2026.

WNAR Indigenous Student Travel Award

WNAR offers a travel supplement for an Indigenous student from within the WNAR region attend our annual conference. Eligible students include Indigenous peoples of North America and the Pacific Islands. To apply, please send a letter outlining your connection to Indigenous peoples and why you are looking forward to attending the WNAR annual conference, to: wnar@wnar.org. Please encourage your students to apply. The deadline for applications is 1 May 2026.

Jessica Minnier

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent





Announcements **& UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

6th Conference of the Central European Network (CEN)

IBS Region Event

“Power of Data – Shaping the Future of Life Sciences”

18-21 May 2026

This joint conference of the Austro-Swiss Region (ROeS), the German Region (DR), and the Polish Region of the International Biometric Society (IBS) Warszawa, Poland

IBC2026

12-16 July 2026

COEX Magok

143 Magokjungang-ro, Gangseo-gu
Seoul, South Korea



IBC2028

16-21 July 2028

XXXIV International
Biometric Conference (IBC)

Congress Centre Basel (pending)
Basel, Switzerland



74th Biometric Colloquium in Conjunction as part of the DAGStat Conference

IBS Region Event

20-24 March 2028

74th Biometric Colloquium as part of the
DAGStat Conference
Bremen, Germany

[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 with the following information:

- Event Title
- Event Description & Location
- Event Category (IBS Regional Event, IBS Event, Non-IBS Event)
- Event Link
- Start/End Date