

# *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

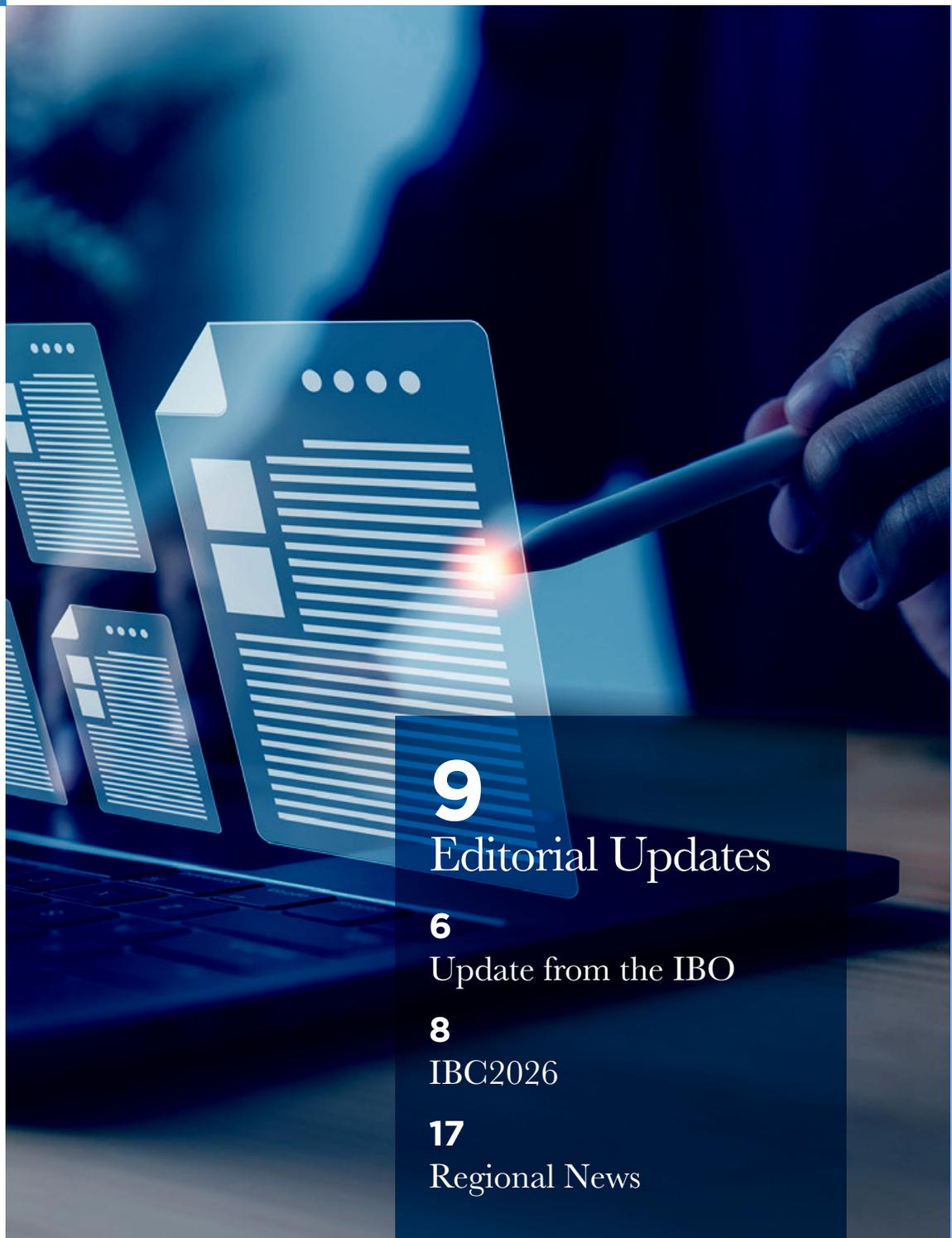


**Iris Pigeot**  
International Biometric  
Society, President

Thanks to all of you who gave us valuable feedback on our last International Biometric Conference in Atlanta. We have collected the feedback that we got from various sources, i.e., the attendee survey, the local organizers, the scientific organizing committee, the past presidents, Jenna Beak (MCI), and of course our own experiences, to prepare a report including recommendations for our next IBC in Seoul which is quickly approaching. We will meet again 12-16 July 2026. The Chair of the International Program Committee (IPC) for IBC 2026 has been elected: congratulations to Frank Bretz from the Austro-Swiss region (ROeS)!! Frank has immediately started to establish the IPC which tries to cover the huge diversity of topics, as well as including as many regions as possible in our discussions. We are taking all the comments with respect to the scientific program of Atlanta into account. I am certain that the IPC will develop an exciting program under Frank's leadership.

Although the IBC is perhaps the best opportunity to meet

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# *Biometric* BULLETIN

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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

GCmr - Cameroon Region

GCI - Chilean Region

GCmr - Cameroon 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

RItI - Italian Region

JR - Japanese Region

GKe - Kenyan Region

Rko - Korean Region

GMal - Malawi Region

NAM - Namibian 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

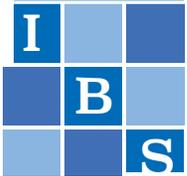
CEN - Central European Network

CN - Channel Network

EAN - East Asian Network

HISP - Hispanic International  
Network

SUSAN - Sub-Saharan Network



# Biometric BULLETIN



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### Editorial Updates

Get the latest details on recent papers published in *Biometrics* and *JABES*

**By Geert Molenbergh**

*Biometrics Executive Editor*

**Jorge Mateau**

*JABES Editor*



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### Update from the IBO

IBS Executive Director Peter Doherty shares recent IBS news regarding the Travel Awards Program, IBC2026, and the Sustainability Task Force helping with IBC's carbon footprint in Seoul, Korea.

**Peter Doherty**, *Executive Director*



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### Regional News

Learn about upcoming activities and meeting recaps from our IBS regions.

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### From the Editor

Editor Garth Tarr shares his perspective on the impact of the Biometric Bulletin.

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### Financial Corner

Treasurer Sarah Ratcliffe shares updates relative to the financial health of the Society..

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### Women's Corner

Our newest *Biometric Bulletin* section focuses on women in the IBS community.

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### Special IBC Announcement

With just over one year to go, IBS officially opens opportunities to participate in the 2026 event in Seoul.

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### Strengthening Analytical Thinking for Observational Studies (STRATOS): Collaborative Project on Initial Data Analysis for Regression Models

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### Announcements & Upcoming Events

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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our colleagues and to make new friends from all over the world, there are many other opportunities taking place this year. The Eastern North American Region (ENAR) 2025 Spring Meeting was held in New Orleans from 23-26 March. Nearly at the same time, from 24-28 March, the 7th Joint Statistical Meeting of the Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Statistik, i.e., of the German Region of the IBS and all other statistical associations in Germany, was hosted by the Humboldt University in Berlin. The Channel Network held its 10th Conference in Liège, Belgium, from 19-21 May. The 10th Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference will take place in Oslo, Norway, from 10-12 June. Our new region Croatia will organize the International Scientific Symposium on Biometrics BIOSTAT 2025 in Varaždin from 11-14 June. The IX Ibero-American Biometrics Meeting will be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 9-11 July, the 34th International Statistics Symposium in Colombia will take place in Pasto from 28 July to 1 August, and the Brazilian Region of IBS is planning the 69th RBras - Reunião Anual da Região Brasileira da Sociedade Internacional de Biometria (RBras) combined with the 21st SEAGRO-Simpósio de Estatística Aplicada à Experimentação Agronômica in Vitória, Espírito Santo, from 4-8 August. The date of the IBS SUSAN2025 Conference has been fixed for 3-8 September and will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Last but not least, the Joint Conference of the Italian and Eastern Mediterranean Regions of the IBS (IBS-IR-EMR2025), will be organized in Salerno, Italy, from 16-18 September. More conferences are being added to our Events Calendar every day. You are encouraged to visit the calendar for more information on these and other events.

As you can see there are so many opportunities to meet this year with your colleagues from other parts of the world. In my view, as scientists we have a huge privilege to enjoy trustful collaborations all over the world. But we should not take this privilege and these opportunities to meet across national borders to exchange our scientific ideas for granted. In the most recent editorial of *The Lancet* ([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)00237-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)00237-5/fulltext)), it is stated that in the US “Researchers’ ability to work has been severely limited or stopped altogether. Free speech is restricted. Use of certain terms is banned on US Government websites (and in manuscripts

submitted to scientific journals), including “gender”, “transgender”, “LGBT”, and “non-binary”, and a directive has paused the submission of new work for publication for all CDC employees and contractors. At *The Lancet*, the impact has already been felt. “Reviewers are declining and authors are self-censoring.”, which is awful and frightening. Also, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2830748>) reacts in its recent editorial to what is happening in the US and states: “The free exchange of ideas is essential to scientific progress, just as it is integral to the founding ideals of the US. The integrity of the scientific process does not depend on blind trust in science or on an assumption that a scientific finding is always right. Rather, this integrity hinges on the confidence that the free exchange of scientific ideas grounded in rigorously conducted scientific inquiry, including the discussion, debate, and disagreement that results in further inquiry, ultimately leads to insights that are likely to be true. For those of us who are part of the biomedical enterprise, the silencing of this scientific discourse and the prohibition of communication of information for patients and clinicians directly threaten the professional oaths that many have taken to protect the health of patients and the public. The silence with which many of us and our institutions are meeting this moment must be challenged.” In this sense, it is important that we as biometricians, whose contributions are so essential to make the best out of empirical data by providing the most appropriate methods, by always trying to find the truth and by constantly scrutinizing our scientific results critically, are standing together. We need to raise our voice to fight for our scientific integrity and we need to strengthen our network by asking more colleagues and new regions from all over the world to join IBS.

Hope to see you soon at any of these conferences,

All the best,  
**Iris Pigeot**

*International Biometric Society President*  
[pigeot@leibniz-bips.de](mailto:pigeot@leibniz-bips.de)

# FROM THE EDITOR

It is a great honour to take on the role of Executive Editor of the *Biometric Bulletin*. I would like to begin by sincerely thanking Professor Ajit Sahai for his dedicated service and editorial leadership over many years. Under his guidance, the *Bulletin* has remained an important outlet for sharing developments and fostering community across the International Biometric Society. I'd also like to thank the IBO, particularly Heidi and Peter for all the work they do behind the scenes to support the *Bulletin*.

This issue reflects the breadth and vitality of our Society's activities. For the first time we have a "Financial Corner" to share more about the IBS budget and a "Women's Corner" to spotlight the experiences of women in our Society. If you have questions you'd like to see addressed in the Financial

Corner or if you would like to contribute to the Women's Corner, please get in touch!

We have messages from President Iris Pigeot and Executive Director Peter Doherty, and editorial updates from *Biometrics* and *JABES*. You will also find news from our regions, and insights from the STRATOS Collaborative Project on Initial Data Analysis for Regression Models.

I look forward to supporting the *Bulletin* over the coming years and welcome your ideas, contributions, and feedback. The *Bulletin* is your platform - let's continue to use it to showcase the strength and diversity of our global biometric community.

**Garth Tarr**

*Biometric Bulletin, Editor*

## *Financial* CORNER



**Sarah Ratcliffe**  
University of Virginia  
*IBS Treasurer*

At IBS General Meetings questions are often asked by the IBS membership about the IBS financial reports, but we generally have very little time to share the details during meetings. We have introduced this new corner to help explain the financial structure behind the IBS, and answer questions about the budgeting process. If you have questions you would like to see addressed, please email them to [ibs@biometricsociety.org](mailto:ibs@biometricsociety.org).

Operating reserves are an unrestricted fund set aside to stabilize the Society's finances/cash flow, and cushion against unexpected events. IBS's operating reserves are managed through investment accounts at Merrill Lynch. Investment directions follow our strict investment policy, which specifies the industries IBS may invest in, and stipulates an overall moderate risk Portfolio.

Members often wonder about the amount in the Society's reserves, and whether they are excessive. One of the things required for a non-profit organization to be considered financially sound is a healthy operating reserve. One generally accepted measure of "health" is how many months of expenses we are able to cover with our reserves. Reporting standards define health as having sufficient funds to cover at least one full cycle of expenses. With the IBC occurring every two years, resulting in vastly different expense profiles in IBC and non-IBC years, the IBS has effectively a two-year (24 month) expense cycle. Based on expenses incurred in 2023 and 2024, the Society currently has approximately 30 months in reserves, or 125% of our expense cycle. Additionally, the performance for the majority of our reserves fluctuates on a daily basis, as most of our reserves are not held in fixed (or low-risk) assets. Thus, 125% is considered financially healthy, but not yet reaching the level considered excessive.

Part of the Treasurer's responsibilities is to balance the amount of reserves to maintain financial health via the IBS budget, in association with the Executive Board and the Budget & Finance Committee. We monitor the Society's cash flow and reserves regularly, and proposals for increases to budgeted amounts and/or initiatives to fund IBC programs are proposed, reviewed, and approved as appropriate, and always with the financial health of the Society in mind.



# Update

## UPDATE FROM THE IBO



**Peter Doherty**  
*Executive Director*

Greetings to all IBS members. And congratulations to our colleague, Biometric Bulletin Editor Garth Tarr, as we release the first issue of his term!

We are swiftly moving into the middle of the year, with so many opportunities ahead for members of the Society. Even so, there are questions that might be difficult to answer at the moment. For instance, how will some of our members be able to persevere during a time in which the value of sharing their work with colleagues across the globe is being questioned? A positive example of sharing how important our work is in society can be found in the Sense About Science charity's [John Maddox Prize](#), which honors those who "courageously advance public discourse with sound science". Please know that your friends at the Society will always support global collaboration, and we welcome opportunities to strengthen existing ties while also seeking innovative ways to extract insights from the data our members work with every day.

Meaningful collaboration with colleagues is the primary aim of our **Travel Awards Program**, and this year we have improved the program to ensure that the application process is as smooth and easy as possible. Members in lower and middle-income countries are

eligible to apply for travel to neighboring Region or Network educational conferences during the month of May. Award decisions will be communicated in June. We also have a new location online that we hope will be used for many of our award and travel grant opportunities in the future. **Please visit <https://biometricsociety-awards.org/> for more information and to apply for a travel award.** And I encourage you to bookmark this page and visit occasionally for the latest news and grant opportunities.



*Peter Doherty with President Iris Pigeot, Board Member Andrea Berghold and attendees at BIOSTAT 2025 in Varaždin, Croatia*

Of course, traveling to nearby Region meetings is an excellent way for anyone to engage with peers, expand their network and share the latest techniques and findings. The next IBC2026 biennial conference is also a great opportunity to share the latest talks, and **we look forward to seeing many of you in July 2026 in Seoul, South Korea** for what promises to be a truly unique event. There are many changes in store for next year's IBC, many of which are quite exciting! But I won't give away any of our Organizing President's surprises quite yet. And not to worry... the traditions that make the International Biometric Conference so special will carry on.

**We welcome IBS member Frank Bretz of the German Region as Chair of the 2026 International Planning Committee!** The committee aims to showcase content from members representing as many IBS Regions as possible, along with key research interests, and

an appropriate balance of student and professional presentations. The first call for session content is expected to be published in early June, and we expect to be able to announce most of the program by the end of the year, allowing our presenters to make their travel plans early. We hope you will begin considering your role in next year's conference, where we expect to pack in as much quality scientific content as possible into four days of programming. That's right... fewer days of travel next year! I suppose I have just revealed one of our secrets.

And finally, just a brief mention that we have formed a **Sustainability Task Force** from members of the IBS Representative Council with the aim of reducing the IBC's carbon footprint. We look forward to reviewing the Task Force's recommendations in the coming weeks. In the meantime, best wishes to you and your colleagues, and thanks for your support!

## Women's CORNER

My name is Janet van Niekerk and I work as a Research Scientist at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia. I am part of the Bayesian Computational Statistics and Modeling group (BayesComp). I have been here since 2018 and am originally from South Africa.

KAUST is a wonderful institution to work for – we have access to amazing research facilities as well as funding. All students receive full scholarships. We have some of the world's top faculty in all areas of Science and Technology.

KAUST is a graduate university so only the Professors teach here, as a PostDoc or a researcher, you will have no teaching obligations and can thus fully immerse yourself in research. Being an employee of KAUST, we get access to housing on the university campus next to the small town of Thuwal, on the shore of the Red Sea. KAUST has its own International Baccalaureate School, The KAUST School, and our kids go to school here. From age 6 the kids ride their bicycles to school and back, and can travel around campus to various sports and entertainment facilities on their own. KAUST is very safe and family-friendly.

KAUST seems to be designed for families with young children, especially, since we have many indoor and outdoor parks, play areas, pools, private beach, gymnasiums, bowling alley and cinema, and many more.



*Taken in Al Ula in Saudi Arabia – a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

Being an employee, we have a very generous number of days we can work remotely from outside of Saudi Arabia (very helpful for family emergencies in your home country), and also from other places inside Saudi Arabia. We also get many flexible hours for flexible work schedules. My house, the school and my office are all within a 10-minute bicycle ride from each other. This allows me to work full hours and also have time to be with my family and be engaged at school activities, since we essentially need no travel time in our day. As a woman, I have appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed working and living here at KAUST, where I could grow my family, while being productive and impactful in my research.



International  
Biometric  
Conference

**IBC**

12-16 July 2026

**Seoul**, South Korea

## The IBC returns to Asia for the first time in fourteen years!

We look forward to celebrating our profession in Seoul next July.  
Special thanks to our IBS Korean Region for their support of the event.

Starting on 29 May, 2025, you will be invited to submit an abstract on these and many more methodological topics: Statistical Modeling, Experimental Design and Analysis, Causal Inference, Longitudinal and Multivariate Data Analysis, High-dimensional Data Methods, Bayesian Methods, Machine Learning and Modern Statistical Learning, Missing Data and Measurement Error, Diagnostic Methods and Model Validation, and Spatial and Spatiotemporal Statistics.

### SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES

- Call for Invited & Short Course Session Abstracts Opens - 29 May 2025
- Call for Awards Nominations, [ibc2026.org](http://ibc2026.org) opens - July 2025
- Call for Contributed Oral / Poster Abstracts Opens - 11 August 2025
- Call for Special Sessions Opens - September 2025
- IBC Early Registration Opens - 2 September 2025
- Call for Travel Awards Opens - November 2025

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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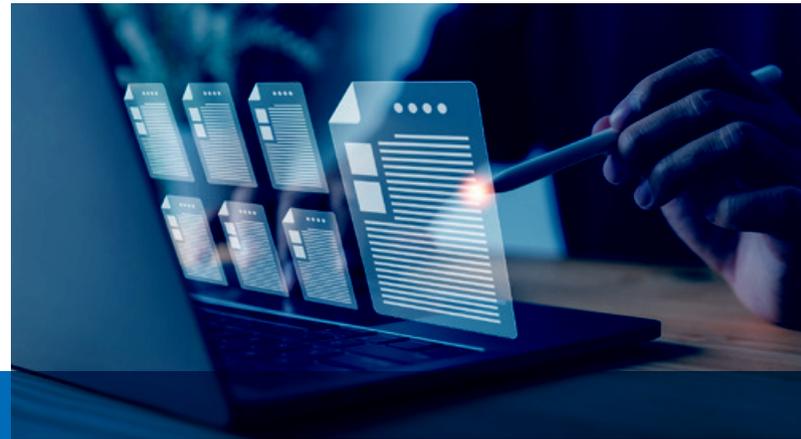
[www.biometricsociety.org/meetings/conferences](http://www.biometricsociety.org/meetings/conferences)

Expected event dates are 12 - 16 July, 2026. Dates subject to change without notice. \*

# Editorial UPDATES



**Geert Molenbergh**  
*Biometrics Executive Editor*



## BIOMETRICS

### Recent papers in *Biometrics*

The following papers are being published in the *Biometrics* Methodology section of the December 2024 issue:

- “Structured feature ranking for genomic marker identification accommodating multiple types of networks,” by Yeheng Ge, Tao Li, Xingdong Feng, Mengyun Wu, and Hailong Liu;
- “Spatially adaptive variable screening in pre-surgical fMRI data analysis,” by Yifei Hu and X. Jessie Jeng;
- “De-biasing the bias: Methods for improving disparity assessments with noisy group measurements,” by Solvejg Wastvedt, Joshua Snoke, Denis Agniel, Julie Lai, Marc N. Elliott, and Steven C. Martino;
- “Time-dependent prognostic accuracy measures for recurrent event data,” by R. Dey, D. E. Schaubel, J. A. Hanley, and P. Saha-Chaudhuri; “Adaptive randomization methods for sequential multiple assignment randomized trials (SMARTs) via Thompson sampling,” by Peter Norwood, Marie Davidian, and Eric Laber;
- “Graphical model inference with external network data,” by Jack Jewson, Li Li, Laura Battaglia, Stephen Hansen, David Rossell, and Piotr Zwiernik;
- “An efficient joint model for high dimensional longitudinal and survival data via generic association features,” by Van Tuan Nguyen, Adeline Fermanian, Antoine Barbieri, Sarah Zohar, Anne-Sophie Jannot, Simon Bussy, and Agathe Guilloux;
- “A Bayesian joint model for mediation analysis with matrix-valued mediators,” by Zijin Liu, Zhihui (Amy) Liu, Ali Hosni, John Kim, Bei Jiang, and Olli Saarela;
- “Joint mirror procedure: Controlling false discovery rate for identifying simultaneous signals,” by Linsui Deng, Kejun He, and Xianyang Zhang
- “An adaptive enrichment design using Bayesian model averaging for selection and threshold-identification of predictive variables,” by Lara Maleyeff, Shirin Golchi, Erica E.M. Moodie, and Marie Hudson; “A generalized logrank-type test for comparison of treatment regimes in sequential multiple assignment randomized trials,” by Anastasios A. Tsiatis and Marie Davidian; “A multivariate Polya tree model for meta-analysis with event time distributions,” by Giovanni Poli, Elena Fountzilias, Apostolia-Maria Tsimberidou, and Peter Müller;
- “Sensitivity analysis for studies transporting prediction models,” by Jon A. Steingrimsson, Sarah E. Robertson, Sarah Voter, and Issa J. Dahabreh;
- “Dynamic factor analysis with dependent Gaussian processes for high-dimensional gene expression trajectories,” by Jiachen Cai, Robert J. B. Goudie, Colin Starr, and Brian D. M. Tom;
- “A hierarchical random effects state-space model for modeling brain activities from electroencephalogram data,” by Xingche Guo, Bin Yang, Ji Meng Loh, Qinxia Wang, and Yuanjia Wang;

- “Wasserstein regression with empirical measures and density estimation for sparse data,” by Yidong Zhou and Hans-Georg Müller;
  - “Modeling longitudinal skewed functional data,” by Mohammad S. Alam and Ana-Maria Staicu;
  - “A new robust approach for the polytomous logistic regression model based on Renyi’s pseudodistances,” by Elena Castilla’
  - “Bayesian inference for group-level cortical surface image-on-scalar-regression with Gaussian process priors,” by Andrew S. Whiteman, Timothy D. Johnson, and Jian Kang;
  - “Leveraging information from secondary endpoints to enhance dynamic borrowing across subpopulations,” by Jack M. Wolf, David M. Vock, Xianghua Luo, Dorothy K. Hatsukami, F. Joseph McClernon, and Joseph S. Koopmeiners;
  - “A formal goodness-of-fit test for spatial binary Markov random field models,” by Eva Biswas, Andee Kaplan, Mark S. Kaiser, and Daniel J. Nordman;
  - “Functional generalized canonical correlation analysis for studying multiple longitudinal variables,” by Lucas Sort, Laurent Le Brusquet, and Arthur Tenehaus;
  - “Heterogeneity-aware integrative regression for ancestry-specific association studies,” by Aaron J. Molstad, Yanwei Cai, Alexander P. Reiner, Charles Kooperberg, Wei Sun, and Li Hsu;
  - “Semiparametric sensitivity analysis: unmeasured confounding In observational studies,” by Razieh Nabi, Matteo Bonvini, Edward H. Kennedy, Ming-Yueh Huang, Marcela Smid, and Daniel O. Scharfstein;
  - “Bayesian network-guided sparse regression with flexible varying effects,” by Yangfan Ren, Christine B. Peterson, and Marina Vannucci;
  - “Group sequential testing of a treatment effect using a surrogate marker,” by Layla Parast and Jay Bartroff; and
  - “ROMI: A randomized two-stage basket trial design to optimize doses for multiple indications,” by Shuqi Wang, Peter F. Thall, Kentaro Takeda, and Ying Yuan.
- Ravi Varadhan, Andrea J. Apter, and Daniel O. Scharfstein;
  - “A likelihood approach to incorporating self-report data in HIV recency classification,” by Wenlong Yang, Danping Liu, Le Bao, and Runze Li;
  - “Unlocking the power of multi-institutional data: integrating and harmonizing genomic data across institutions,” by Yuan Chen, Ronglai Shen, Xiwen Feng, and Katherine Panageas;
  - “Estimating marginal treatment effect in cluster randomized trials with multi-level missing outcomes,” by Chia-Rui Chang and Rui Wang;
  - “A Bayesian framework for causal analysis of recurrent events with timing misalignment,” by Arman Oganisian, Anthony Girard, Jon A. Steingrimsson, and Patience Moyo;
  - “Optimal adaptive SMART designs with binary outcomes,” by Rik Ghosh, Bibhas Chakraborty, Inbal Nahum-Shani, Megan E. Patrick, and Palash Ghosh; “Cumulative link mixed-effects models in the service of remote sensing crop progress monitoring,” by Ioannis Oikonomidis and Samis Trevezas;
  - “An exploratory penalized regression to identify combined effects of temporal variables-Applicaition to agri-environmental issues,” by Bénédicte Fontez, Patrice Loisel, Thierry Simonneau, and Nadine Hilgert;
  - “A causal inference framework for leveraging external controls in hybrid trials,” by Michael Valancius, Herbert Pang, Jiawen Zhu, Steve R. Cole, Michele Jonsson Funk, and Michael R. Kosorok;
  - “Clustering computer mouse tracking data with informed hierarchical shrinkage partition priors,” by Ziyi Song, Weining Shen, Marina Vannucci, Alexandria Baldizon, Paul M. Cinciripini, Francesco Versace, and Michele Guindani;
  - “Derivation of outcome-dependent dietary patterns for low-income women obtained from survey data using a Supervised Weighted Overfitted Latent Class Analysis,” by Stephanie M. Wu, Matthew R. Williams, Terrance D. Savitsky, and Briana J.K. Stephenson;
  - “Case-crossover designs and overdispersion with application to air pollution epidemiology,” by Samuel Perreault, Gracia Y. Dong, Alex Stringer, Hwashin Shin, and Patrick Brown;

**Articles in the Biometric Practice section of the journal include:**

- “Semi-parametric sensitivity analysis for trials with irregular and informative assessment times,” by Bonnie Smith, Yujing Gao, Shu Yang,

- “Changepoint detection on daily home activity pattern: a sliced Poisson process method,” by Israel Martínez Hernández and Rebecca Killick;
- “Temporal generative models for learning heterogeneous group dynamics of ecological momentary data,” by Soohyun Kim, Younggeun Kim, and Yuanjia Wang; and
- “On network deconvolution for undirected graphs,” by Zhaotong Lin, Isaac Pan, and Wei Pan

Editorial Board News Co-Editor Katja Ickstadt’s (German Region) term concluded on 31 December 2024. We thank Katja for model service to Biometrics! She was succeeded by Cécile Proust-Lima (French Region) who will serve as Co-editor for the years 2025-2027. Further, at the end of 2025, Matt Schofield (Australasian Region) will conclude his three-year term, so his successor must be identified. We follow the geographical convention that has been in place since the inception of the three CE system, which dictates that at any time the three CEs are from Europe, North America, and locations outside of Europe and North America. Matt is from Rest of World, so he should be succeeded by a new CE from that same part of the world. A search committee has been formed, consisting of

- Geert Molenberghs, Biometrics Executive Editor, Chair (Belgian Region);
- Erica Moodie, Biometrics CE (ENAR);
- Matthew Schofield, Biometrics CE (Australasian Region); Cécile Proust-Lima, Biometrics CE (French Region); Katja Ickstadt, immediately outgoing Biometrics CE (German Region);
- Ronald Geskus, EAC Chair (Netherlands Region);
- Renato Assunção (Brazilian Region); and Edmore Ranganai (South African Region).

Associate Editors (AEs) for *Biometrics* serve two-year, renewable terms that start on 1 July of each year. Each year, roughly half of the AEs have terms ending on 30 June; accordingly, each Spring, the Co-Editors review the expertise of the current AEs and submission trends with an eye toward possibly bringing on new AEs with expertise that is underrepresented or may be lost by AE retirements. The CEs welcome suggestions at any time from the IBS membership regarding individuals who may be excellent choices to serve as AEs. Please send suggestions, along with a CV or URL where the individual’s qualifications may be found, to the journal Editorial Managers, (Ms. Chantal Brodie and

Ms. Ann Hanhart), at [biometrics@biometricsociety.org](mailto:biometrics@biometricsociety.org). Self-nominations will be considered.

### Looking Back on the International Biometric Conference 2024

Because 2024 is an even-numbered year, we are able to look back on an International Biometric Conference. What’s more, the conference took place very recently, 8-13 December 2024, in Atlanta, Georgia. While most, but not all, IBCs take place during the Northern Hemisphere summer, there have been a few in December, such as the Cape Town, South Africa IBC in 1998 and the one in Florianópolis, Brazil in 2010. Thus, this is usually the case when an IBC is held in the Southern Hemisphere. While Atlanta is in the North, the original plans were to hold the IBC in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Because of the complex economic situation, it was moved to Atlanta, while keeping the time bracket. As such, it was the third IBC year surrounded with difficulties, but that were graciously overcome. Indeed, the 2020 Seoul meeting had to be cancelled and replaced by a sequence of online meetings. The 2022 conference in Riga was successful, while still surrounded by pandemic circumstances, and the onset of the Ukrainian conflict.

That said, those present in Atlanta will agree that it was a very successful meeting, with great courses and presentations, and an amicable, social, and scientifically stimulating atmosphere. From the perspective of Biometrics, the scientific program featured a fine Biometrics Showcase Session, hosting the co-editors selected Best Papers Published in *Biometrics* by an IBS Member for 2022 and 2023:

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- Guo, C., Kang, J., and Johnson, T.D. (2022). A spatial Bayesian latent factor model for image-on-image regression. *Biometrics*, 78, 72–84.
- Shepherd, B.E., Han, K., Chen, T., Bian, A., Pugh, S., Duda, S.N., Lumley, T., Heerman, W.J., and Shaw, P.A. (2023). Multiwave validation sampling for error-prone electronic health records. *Biometrics*, 79, 2649-2663.

Both papers were awarded with a certificate by the IBS leadership during the closing ceremony of the Conference. The Co-editors, active during the calendar years 2022 and 2023, selected six colleagues who refereed papers submitted to *Biometrics* and did an outstanding job. It is a difficult choice, as so many referees provide high-quality reports. It goes without saying that the journal's scientific health crucially depends upon referees' willingness and work. We were delighted to celebrate during the IBC in Atlanta: Chris Jennison, Zach Branson, Tian Gu, Shaun Seaman, Kevin Lin, and Niccolo' Anceschi. These referees will receive a certificate from the IBS leadership, as called out during the closing ceremony of the IBC.

In keeping with recent tradition, we supplemented the online Associate Editors' board meetings, held in July and August 2024, with a face-to-face edition in Atlanta. In 2025, an odd-numbered year without an IBC, there will be two online meetings in July and August.

There was a meeting of the Editorial Advisory Committee, chaired by Ronald Gekus. In particular, *Biometrics* related matters were discussed, such as the successful transition from Wiley to Oxford University Press, the evolution of the numbers of submissions, and other policy related matters. The journal's backlog was cleared prior to the transition, and is now at a low level, given that an accepted and typeset paper enters an issue immediately, thus obtaining without delay its final citation information.

We look forward to the 2026 IBC in Seoul, South Korea (12-16 July 2026), and the one in 2028, in Basel, Switzerland.

### ***Biometrics* Twitter Account**

Kindly be reminded of our twitter account:

[https://twitter.com/Biometrics\\_ibs](https://twitter.com/Biometrics_ibs)

**Geert Molenbergh**  
*Biometrics Executive Editor*

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



**Jorge Mateu**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

We closed the special issue “The Next Wave of Statistical Learning for Spatial Functional Data Analysis” with submission deadline 28 February 2025. 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. Potential topics that could be covered under The Next Wave of Statistical Learning for Spatial Functional Data Analysis include:

- Statistical models for spatial functional data: This encompasses models such as mixed-effects models, Gaussian processes, and generalized additive models specially designed for spatial contexts.
- Functional data analysis techniques: This involves exploring methods like functional principal component analysis (FPCA) and func-

- tional regression techniques within a spatial framework.
- Spatial correlation structures: This focuses on modeling and evaluating spatial correlations present in functional data.
  - Machine learning approaches: Application of machine learning techniques, including random forests, support vector machines, and neural networks, for analyzing spatial functional data.
  - Bayesian hierarchical models: Utilizing Bayesian frameworks with Gaussian processes to effectively model uncertainty and complex dependencies inherent in spatial functional data.
  - Spatio-temporal data: Extending models to incorporate spatio-temporal settings, addressing non-separable space-time covariances.
  - Multivariate and multi-resolution analysis: Employing multivariate approaches to manage multiple functional variables and utilizing multi-resolution model including network for functional data.
  - Functional-Driven Spatial Point Processes: Combining point process modeling with spatial functional data to analyze and predict events occurring in space where the intensity or characteristics of the events are influenced by continuous data that vary over space and time.

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

We here announce the winners of the Best Paper published in JABES in 2024:

**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]

Congratulations to all the involved authors for the excellent and interesting work.

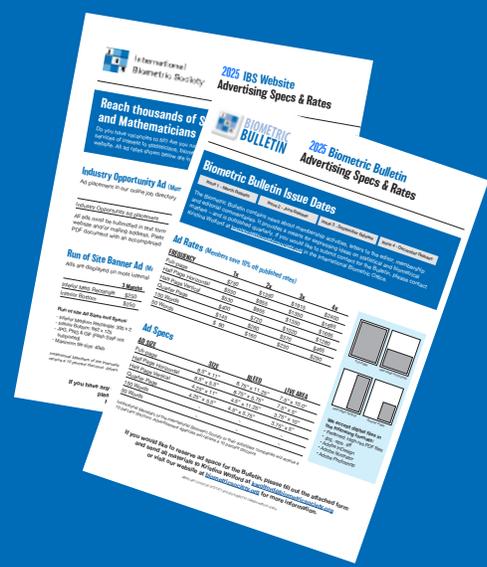
Some Journal Statistics for 2024:

- 79 Articles Published Online in 2024 (2024 Online Article Budget: 51 Articles)
- 335 Submissions in 2024 (An increase from 311 Submissions in 2023, and from 324 Submissions in 2022)
- Average of 16 Days from Submission to First Decision in 2024 (A decrease from 37 days in 2023 and 29 days in 2022)
- 143,511 Article Downloads in 2024 (An increase from 143,410 in 2023 and 87,831 in 2022)
- 39 Published Open Access Articles in 2024 32 OA Articles Were Paid for by Transformative Agreements (An increase from 23 Published OA Articles in 2023, 19 of which were paid for by Transformative Agreements)
- 2023 Impact Factor: 1.4 (112 Citations from 78 Articles); 2022 Impact Factor: 1.4 (109 Citations from 80 Articles)
- 2023 h5-Index: 18, 2022 h5-Index: 15, 2023 h5-Median: 24, 2022 h5-Median: 20

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 Inancio de Carvahlo ([vanda.inacio@ed.ac.uk](mailto:vanda.inacio@ed.ac.uk)), University of Edinburgh, UK. Please follow us on Twitter: @JabesEditor.

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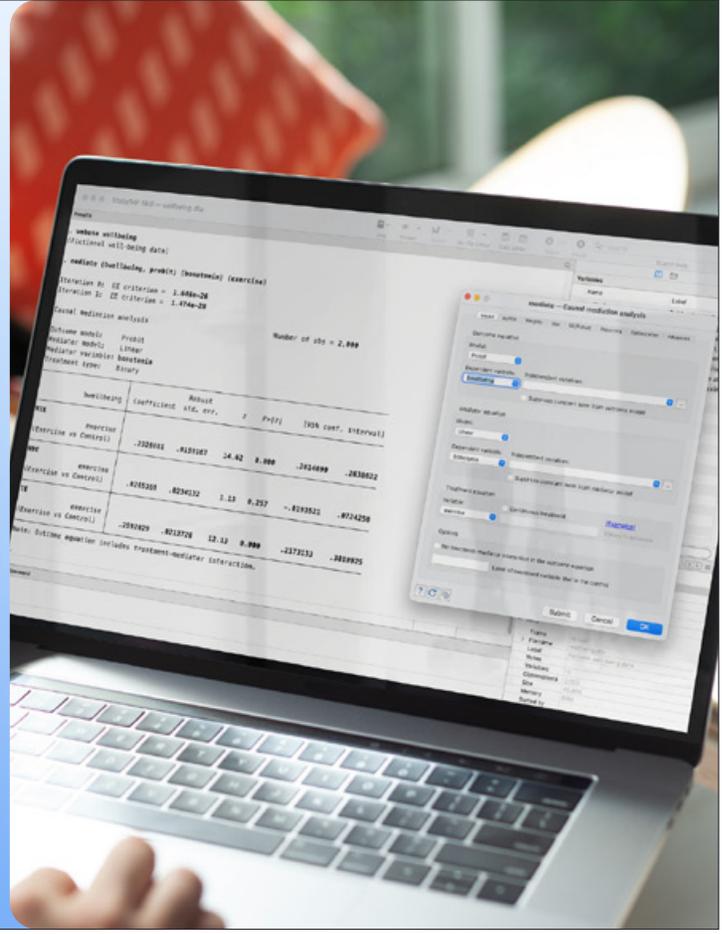


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# *Strengthening Analytical Thinking for Observational Studies (STRATOS):*

## **COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ON INITIAL DATA ANALYSIS FOR REGRESSION MODELS**

Lara Lusa 1,2 , Marianne Huebner 3 , Willi Sauerbrei 4 , Georg Heinze 5 on behalf of STRATOS TG3 and TG2

- Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies, University of Primorska, Koper/ Capodistria, Slovenia; lara.lusa@famnit.upr.si
- Institute for Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Department of Statistics and Probability, Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA
- Faculty of Medicine and Medical Center, University of Freiburg, Germany
- Medical University of Vienna, Center for Medical Data Science, Institute of Clinical Biometrics, Vienna, Austria

The complexity of observational studies requires expertise in multiple areas of statistics. Previous short reports in the Biometric Bulletin focused on specific STRATOS topic groups (TG) and panels, but collaborative projects have been ongoing. The TG3 developed a body of work on systematic approaches of initial data analysis ( <https://stratosida.github.io/papers.html> ) while TG2 publications aim to provide guidance for variable and function selection in multivariable analysis. Our collaboration focused on

providing practical solutions for analysts to implement initial data analysis steps as a prerequisite to regression analyses. This provides knowledge about underlying features of the data and is needed

to ensure the appropriateness of the statistical models and correct interpretation of results.

The initial data analysis topic group proposed an IDA framework that can be incorporated into the research flow [1], and includes data cleaning, data screening, possible updates of pre-planned statistical analyses, and reporting of IDA findings. We described ten simple rules to explain IDA and the benefits of adopting IDA in practice [2].

Data screening examines the properties of data before addressing the research question with the main statistical analysis. The aim is to obtain information relevant for subsequent intended statistical analyses. Such explorations investigate missing data and univariate and multivariable descriptions. Importantly, these explorations do not anticipate analysis directly related to the research question, namely associations between outcome and predictors are not explored. IDA findings support the original analysis strategy, can guide revisions and the correct presentation and interpretation of the results of the analyses. IDA strategies require careful consideration of the research question. IDA steps can then be incorporated in analysis plans to manage the scope and for reproducibility. Some decisions about the statistical analysis may be conditional on the IDA results but are pre-planned before the main data analyses are undertaken.

The recently published paper “Regression without regrets –initial data analysis is a prerequisite for multivariable regression” [3] addressed this problem

in the context of cross-sectional studies that intend to use regression models with numerical, binary or count outcomes. This resulted in a checklist for an IDA plan focused on three IDA domains: missing values, univariate distributions, and the multivariable system of predictors. The resulting IDA plan balances exhaustive investigation of the dataset with utility. The approach was illustrated in a study with the aim to fit a diagnostic prediction model for the presence or absence of bacteria in the blood, in a study where demographic variables and about 50 routinely collected laboratory variables were available for about 15,000 patients. While the paper focused on a predictive research question, the recommendations can also be used for descriptive or explanatory research questions, to pre-plan data screening efforts for clinical trial data or for research aims that include a plan for using modern algorithmic approaches.

Building on this project, TG3 developed an IDA checklist for longitudinal data with an example of complex surveys [4]. The goal of this study was to extend the check list to studies where participants are measured repeatedly over time, which poses additional challenges for IDA and requires additional considerations. In the longitudinal setting, IDA explorations can quickly become overwhelming even with a small number of variables. To manage this we provide guidance explaining which aspects of the data may be explored prior to undertaking the statistical analyses that address the main research question. Different time metrics, the description of how much data was collected through the study (how many observations and at which times), missing values across time points, including drop-out, and longitudinal trends of variables were considered, resulting in two additional domains: participation profile and longitudinal trends. This study was based on collaborations with STRATOS members from the missing data (TG1) and measurement error (TG4) topic groups.

To facilitate the implementation of the checklists in other projects and encourage the use of a systematic approach and of reproducible strategies, extensive and well documented R code was provided for the examples discussed in the papers (<https://stratosida.github.io/resources.html>). This includes many examples of data visualization.

Both papers discussed the need to integrate the IDA plan in a statistical analysis plan to increase transparency, reproducibility and avoid ad-hoc decisions. These considerations motivated a STRATOS wide project to develop guidelines for

statistical analysis plans for observational studies that includes IDA steps and prepares for documenting deviations based on IDA results. This project is registered with the EQUATOR network as a reporting guideline under development for observational studies. We would like to point out the importance of incorporating IDA discussion and tools in curricula to build researchers' capacity and empower them to employ a systematic use of IDA in their studies.

We acknowledge the contributions from the co-authors of the four papers cited: Mark Baillie, Frank E. Harrell, Frank Lawrence, Katherine J. Lee, Saskia le Cessie, Cecile Proust-Lima, Carsten O. Schmidt and Werner Vach.

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- [1] Huebner M, le Cessie S, Schmidt CO, Vach W. on behalf of the Topic Group 'Initial data Analysis' of the STRATOS initiative. A contemporary conceptual framework for initial data analysis. *Observational Studies* 2018; 4: 171-192. <https://doi.org/10.1353/obs.2018.0014>
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- [4] Lusa L, Proust-Lima C, Schmidt CO, Lee KJ, le Cessie S, Baillie M, Lawrence F, Huebner M., on behalf of TG3 of the STRATOS initiative. Initial data analysis for longitudinal studies to build a solid foundation for reproducible analysis. *PLoS One.* 2024 May 29;19(5):e0295726. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0295726>



# Region NEWS

## Cameroon (GCmr)

The International Biometric Society - Cameroon (IBS-CAM) is glad to initiate a monthly lecture series open to members, students and professionals in the region and beyond to increase professional development and interaction. The first lecture, delivered by Che Henry, was held on 26 April, 2024. The lecture introduced the concept of cohort sampling designs and their application to time-to-event data. The second session was held on 31 May 2024 with the topic "Improving Dose Finding Studies in Drug Development: the MCPMod Approach" to be presented by Jose Pinheiro.

**Che Henry Ngwa**

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## Central American-Caribbean (RCAC)

### Activities from the International Biometric Society (IBS) Central American and Caribbean (RCAC) Region

The RCAC members of the IBS held a couple of meetings to know each other in this quarter. Dr Vrijesh Tripathi and Dr Liliana Lopez Kleine made presentations on Biostatistics and Genomic Statistics on 19 February and 12 March 2025, respectively. The initiative will continue in collaboration with the new created Hispanic International Network. The meetings are aimed to get acquainted between members and

share information on collaborations and funding opportunities.

The 34th International Symposium on Statistics (SIE) is being organized by La Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia, South America, with the collaboration of the Central American and Caribbean Region (RCAC) of the International Biometric Society and La Universidad de Nariño, Pasto, Nariño (Colombia) from 29 July to 1 August 2025 and the RCAC IBS meeting will be held on 30 July 2025.

Invited speakers include:

- Shari Messinger, PhD. University of Miami, USA.
- Francisco Gómez, PhD. Universidad Nacional, Colombia.
- Christian Cabrera Jojoa, PhD. University of Cambridge, Reino Unido.
- Rodrigo Salas, PhD. Universidad de Valparaíso, Chile.
- Carl Henrik Ek, PhD. University of Cambridge, Reino Unido.
- Juan Carlos Caicedo, PhD. University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.
- Violeta Belver, PhD. Latin American Open Data Initiative (ILDA).

Several short courses (3 days\*1.5 hours) are planned: (i) "Statistical Considerations in the Design of Clinical Trials for Implementation Science" by Shari Messinger; (ii) "Deep Learning Applied to Image Processing" by Rodrigo Salas; (iii) "Is the Data Used to Train AI in Latin America Ethical?" by Violeta Belver; (iv) "Normalizing Flows for Causal Analysis" by Juan Carlos Caicedo.

The title of the plenary sessions are "Design and Statistical Considerations in Implementation Science

Trials” by Shari Messinger and “Opportunities and Challenges of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare” by Rodrigo Salas. For more details, you can contact:

- WEB: <https://sites.google.com/unal.edu.co/simp-positadistica/inicio>
- FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/SimpEstadisticaUNAL>
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We look forward to listening to them on these relevant topics and to meeting our members at the symposium. Participants who register before 9 June 2025, will receive virtual access to the plenary sessions of the IX IBERO-American Meeting on Biometrics (EIB) 2025 to be held at Quito, Ecuador, South America from 9-11 July 2025.

Among publications by IBS-RCAC Members this quarter are several studies in the health insurance sector in Colombia and racial inequities in United States. The list follows:

1. Espinosa, O., Bejarano, V., Arias, L., & González, J. (2025). Informal workers in the rural sector in Colombia: living conditions and social security. *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, 17(8), 100200. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rspp.2025.100200>
2. Espinosa, O., Rodríguez-Lesmes, P., Rodríguez, J., Ávila, D., Basto, S., Romano, G., Mesa, L., & Enríquez, H. (2025). The impact of periodic updates to health benefits plan: access gains without cost savings? *International Journal of Health Economics and Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10754-025-09394-7>
3. Espinosa, O., Rodríguez-Lesmes, P., Prada, S., Bolívar, M., Mejía-Becerra, D., & Vecino-Ortíz, A. (2025). Health insurance premium in Colombia for 2025: a strictly political-ideological decision without technical-scientific arguments? *Health Economics Review*, 15(31). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13561-025-00620-z>
4. Paternina-Cacedo, A., Espinosa, O., Sheth, S., Hupert, N., & Saghalian, S. (2025). Excess mortality rate in black children since 1950 in the United States: a 70-year population-based study of racial inequalities. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.7326/ANNALS-24-02794>

5. Rivera, N., Calderón, S., & Espinosa, O. (2025). Forecasting based on a multivariate autoregressive threshold model (MTAR) with a multivariate Student’s t error distribution: a Bayesian approach. *Communications in Statistics - Theory and Methods*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03610926.2025.2466738>
6. Espinosa, O., Arias, L., & López, S. (2025). Pension reform bill in Colombia: a critical analysis from a risk management approach. *The Journal of Retirement*. <https://doi.org/10.3905/jor.2025.1179>

### Publications by IBS-RCAC Members

Our members have published a number of papers in this quarter. Professor Adriana Perez led a study on the association between the use of hookah and age of asthma onset among US adults using data from Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) 2013-2021. With the age of asthma onset as the dependent variable, the study implemented macros to report results of crude and multivariable weighted interval-censoring Cox proportional hazards models that included terms for two interaction effects - (1) sex and years since first hookah use, and (2) ethnicity and years since first hookah use - with adjustment for other covariates. The study concluded that women, Hispanics, and non-Hispanic black adults who reported one or more years since first hookah use had increased risks of asthma onset at earlier ages in comparison to men and non-Hispanic white adults who reported never using hookah. The study is important in supporting policies aimed at discouraging hookah use.

Other publications include a reflective analysis on the use of actuarial science in the health sector by Dr Oscar Espinosa and his team from National University of Columbia. He also led a study on causes of mortality and health spending among the oldest old population in Columbia (2008-2022). Details of findings from these studies led by Professor Perez and Dr Espinosa can be found in the publications listed below:

- Pérez, A., Valencia, S., Jani, J.J., Harrell, M.B. (2025) Use of Hookah and Age of Asthma Onset Among US Adults. *Tobacco Use Insights*. 18. Doi:10.1177/1179173X251321578 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39975773/>
- Espinosa, O., Bejarano, V., Franky, I. Pagali, S., Drummond, M., & Franco, O. (2025). Mortality causes and health spending by gender and health conditions in octogenarians, nonagenarians and centenarians in

Colombia. *Scientific Reports*, 15, 918. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-84150-4>

- Espinosa, O., Drummond, M., Russo, E., Williams, D., & Wix, D. (2025). How can actuarial science contribute to the field of health technology assessment? An interdisciplinary perspective. *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care*, 41(1), e3. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266462324004781>

**Vrijesh Tripathi, PhD**

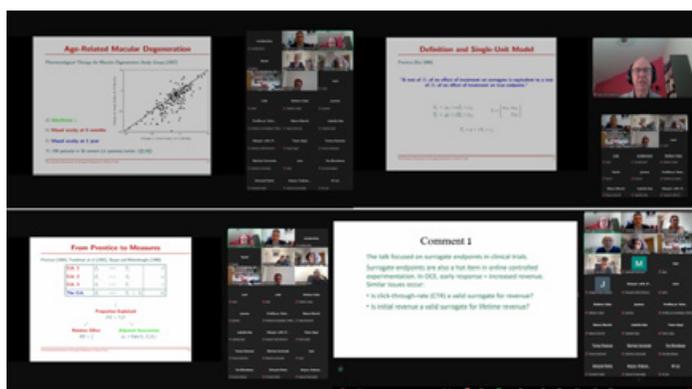
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## Eastern Mediterranean (EMR)

### IBS Joint Webinars Between EMR, Italian & Spanish Regions - 2025/1

The first webinar of 2025 in the joint series between the Eastern-Mediterranean, Italian, and Spanish regions of the International Biometric Society (IBS) was both successful and highly fruitful. Prof. Geert Molenberghs' insightful presentation on "Statistical Evaluation of Surrogate Endpoints in Clinical Trials" sparked engaging discussions and provided attendees with a deeper understanding of the statistical frameworks and methodologies used to assess surrogate endpoints in medical research. His talk emphasized the importance of rigorous evaluation approaches and highlighted key challenges and considerations in the design and analysis of clinical trials.

The event was moderated by Professor David Steinberg from Tel Aviv University. The interactive Q&A session allowed participants from diverse regions to exchange ideas and share experiences, further enriching the learning experience. We would like to thank Prof. Molenberghs for his valuable contribution and all participants for their active engagement. Stay tuned for the next webinars in this collaborative series, which aim to continue fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening ties between our regions.



We are pleased to inform you that the call for abstracts and registration for the Joint Conference of the Italian and Eastern Mediterranean Regions of the International Biometric Society (IBS-IR-EMR2025), taking place in Salerno on 16-18 September 2025, is now open. We welcome submissions for presentation (oral or poster) from professionals in biostatistics, biometry, epidemiology, bioinformatics, and other relevant topics of the conference <https://www.statlab-unisa.it/ibs-ir-emr2025/conference-topics/>.

To submit an abstract, please check more details of the submission by visiting our submission page at <https://www.statlab-unisa.it/ibs-ir-emr2025/guidelines-for-submissions/>. In addition, we invite you to register for the conference by visiting our website (<https://www.statlab-unisa.it/ibs-ir-emr2025/conference-fees/>) and following the registration instructions. Early bird registration is available until 15 July 2025. Also, don't forget to check out the pre-conference tutorials that will take place on 15 September 2025 as part of the event. We hope that the conference will provide for participants to exchange and discuss new ideas and establish research relations for future scientific collaborations. Apart from the scientific sessions, we have planned activities and social programs that our guests can enjoy in Salerno. Although the social programme will be announced later, information about the



surroundings of Salerno can be found at <https://www.statlab-unisa.it/ibs-ir-emr2025/salerno-surroundings/>. All information is available on the conference website, <https://www.statlab-unisa.it/ibs-ir-emr2025/>. For more information please do not hesitate to contact us via [ibs\\_ir\\_emr2025@unisa.it](mailto:ibs_ir_emr2025@unisa.it). Social media accounts: LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ibs-ir-emr2025> X: [https://x.com/ibs\\_ir\\_emr2025](https://x.com/ibs_ir_emr2025)

We look forward to receiving your submissions and having you join us at the conference.

Conference Co-Chair  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marialuisa Restaino

Conference Co-Chair  
Prof. Dr. Gökmen Zararsız

**Necia Kochan**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## French (RF)

### Young Researcher Day

The French Region of the IBS “Société Française de Biométrie (SFB)” organized the Young Researcher Day 22 January 2025 in Bordeaux, France. The biennial Daniel Schwartz PhD dissertation prize was awarded to Marinna Gaudin and Kateline Le Bourdonnec for their methodological work in ecology and epidemiology, respectively. The keynote speaker was Catherine Legrand from Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. About 50 participants attended the conference (pictures).



*David Causeur (left), former President of the French Region (2020-2023) who chaired the selection committee for the biennial Daniel Schwartz PhD dissertation prize in 2025 with the two winners Marinna Gaudin (middle) and Kateline Le Bourdonnec (right)*



*Young Researcher Day organized January 22, 2025 in Bordeaux, France, by the French Region of the IBS with Catherine Legrand as the keynote speaker*

### Annual General Meeting

The French Region also held its Annual General Meeting 28 January 2025 online. After communication efforts, the number of members registered with IBS in 2024 substantially increased to 62 Regular, 1 Retired, 15 Student, 1 Honorary and 1 Supporting members, totalling 80 members. The French Region is very grateful to Pascal Wild who served for years as the President (2013-2015) then the Treasurer (2015-2023) before retiring from the board of the association in 2025.

### Coming Events

Coming events of the French Region include:

- The 10th Channel Network Conference (CNC), in Liège, Belgium, 19-21 May 2025, hosted by the Belgium Region in partnership with the IBS regions of France, Great-Britain/Ireland, and the Netherlands. Abstract submission is open until 7 March 2025 (<https://cnc25.sciencesconf.org/>).
- The annual joint conference of the “Statistics and Health” axis of the CNRS Math-Bio-Health thematic network, the group “Biopharmacy and Health” of the French Society of Statistics (SFdS) and the French Region of the IBS (SFB) to be held in Montpellier, France, in Autumn.
- The International Biometric Conference (IBC), in Basel in July 2028, hosted by the Austro-Swiss Region in partnership with the IBS regions of France and Germany.
- More information can be found on our website: <https://sfb.pages.math.cnrs.fr/asso/>

**Anne Thiebaut**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## German (DR)

### New president, new editor

The German Region's president now is Jan Beyersman (Ulm). The Biometrical Journal, the scientific

outlet of the German Region, the Austro-Swiss Region, and the Italian Region, has editors from these three regions. The German editor is now Jochem König (Mainz).

### Young talents awards



*Awardees (from left to right) Jasmin Rühl, Daniel Klippert, Pauline Baur und Ferdinand Stoye.*

The Bernd-Streitberg-Award (pre-docs) went to

- Pauline Baur, Dortmund, for the work “A Survival Tree Based on the Copula-Graphic Estimator”
- David Jesse, Göttingen, for the work “Resampling-based Inference for Restricted Mean Survival Times” Daniel Klippert, Dortmund, for the work “An Analysis of Causal Inference Methods for Competing Risks”

The Gustav Adolf Lienert Award (new post-docs) went to

- Merle Munko, Magdeburg, for the article “RMST-based multiple contrast tests in general factorial designs” in *Statistics in Medicine*
- Ferdinand Stoye, Bielefeld, for the article “A discrete time-to-event model for the meta-analysis of full ROC curves” in *Research Synthesis Methods*
- Jasmin Rühl, Augsburg, for the article “Resampling-based confidence intervals and bands for the average treatment effect in observational studies with competing risks” in *Scandinavian Journal of Statistics*.”

## DAGStat Conference

Right at the center of the federal capital city Berlin, “Unter den Linden 6,” some of the palaces house Humboldt University. That were statisticians of different stripes met 24-28 March 2025 at the triannual joint conference of statistical societies. The IBS German Region integrated its annual Conference. Twelve tutorials and an update for school teachers filled the first day. All together there were 443 presenters of talks, posters, tutorials or lectures, so that there were nine sessions in parallel at most Times.



*(Foto: IBS) DAGStat local organizing team of Humboldt University, Charité, and Federal Statistical Office at the closing session.*

A special exhibition and screening of a documentary movie informed about the life and times and contributions to statistics and engineering by Emil Julius Gumbel (1891-1966). He voiced opposition to the Nazis long before they assumed power, partly by statistics on political assassinations. In his American exile, he put materials science, hydrology, actuarial science etc. on a new basis, the eponymous distribution function.

The book of abstracts may be found at <https://dagstat2025.de> among other information, e.g. the speakers of the four keynotes and the 27 invited lectures, and the German language abstract of Gerd Gigerenzer's lecture for the public.

### Biostatistics in Ethics committees

The working group Ethics and Responsibility organized together with the project group “Biometry in Ethics committees” (GMDS) an interactive workshop “Biometricians in Ethics committees” at Munich University 15-16 May 2025. Four talks of one hour each on standards, compliance and feedback to applicants and by biostatisticians in a competent authority were discussed in depth.

## Upcoming Meetings

### 2-5 June 2025 in Strobl am Wolfgangsee (Austria)

Summer school “Longitudinal and Incomplete Data” with Geert Molenberghs and Anna Ivanova (both Universities Hasselt & Leuven). Registration is possible until 1 February 2025. [https://www.biometrische-gesellschaft.de/fileadmin/1\\_Daten\\_Haupt-Website/Docs\\_Termine/2025\\_Sommerschule\\_Strobl.pdf](https://www.biometrische-gesellschaft.de/fileadmin/1_Daten_Haupt-Website/Docs_Termine/2025_Sommerschule_Strobl.pdf)

### 12-13 June 2025 in Braunschweig

Workshop “Computational Models in Biology and Medicine” is organized by the working groups Mathematical Models in Medicine and Biology and Statistical Methods in Bioinformatics of the GMDS & IBS-DR organize the. Confirmed keynote speakers are Yang Li (CiiM, Hannover, Germany), Markus List (TU Munich, Munich, Germany), Katharina Baum (FU Berlin, Germany) und Nadezhda Doncheva (CPR, Copenhagen, Denmark). <https://www.biometrische-gesellschaft.de/en/arbeitsgruppen/statistische-methoden-i-d-bioinformatik.html>

### 26-27 June 2025 in Karlsruhe

Summer conference of the working group Landwirtschaftliches Versuchswesen at LTZ Augustenberg with the main topic: “From theory to reality: approaches for experimental systems with limited randomisation and repetition possibilities” <https://www.biometrische-gesellschaft.de/arbeitsgruppen/landwirtschaftliches-versuchswesen.html>

### 30 June to 1 July at TU Dortmund

Recent Advances in Meta-Analysis <https://msind.statistik.tu-dortmund.de/en/research/events/meta-analysis-symposium-2025/#/>

### 7-8 July 2025 at TU Dortmund

The working group Nonparametric Methods is holding a symposium in honour of Marc Ditzhaus. Numerous companions of Marc’s have been secured as speakers: from Germany, among others: Speakers from Germany are, e.g., Jan Beyersmann, Carolin Herrmann and Sarah Friedrich; international speakers are Takeshi Emura, Arthur Gretton and Lukasz Smaga amongst others. <https://msind.statistik.tu-dortmund.de/forschung/veranstaltungen/symposium-in-honour-of-marc-ditzhaus/#/>

### 30-31 July 2025 at Reisenburg (Günzburg)

Workshop “Statistical Computing” organized by the AGs Statistical Computing (IBS-DR/GMDS) and Classification and Data Analysis in the Life Sciences (GfKI) <https://sysbio.uni-ulm.de/ocs/index.php/statcomp/statcomp2025>

### 17-19 September 2025 at Ratzeburg (Lübeck)

Summer school “Biometrical aspects of machine learning based prediction modeling” with Tuwe Löffström, Stijn Vansteelandt, Marvin N. Wright. <https://umfragen.uni-luebeck.de/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=184345&lang=en>

### 24-26 September 2025 at Lübeck University

Workshop “Probabilistic Risk Analysis and Bayesian Decision Theory” of the working groups Ecology and Environment, Bayes Methods und Spatial Statistics and Biometry (German Association of Forest Research Stations) with a tutorial by Marcel van Oijen and Mark Brewer. [https://www.biometrische-gesellschaft.de/fileadmin/1\\_Daten\\_Haupt-Website/Docs\\_Termine/BayesAnkuendigung24.09.2025.pdf](https://www.biometrische-gesellschaft.de/fileadmin/1_Daten_Haupt-Website/Docs_Termine/BayesAnkuendigung24.09.2025.pdf)

**Reinhard Vonthein**  
Bulletin Correspondent

## Japan (JR)

### The 2024 Biometric Seminar

The Biometric Seminar entitled “Considering ‘pragmatic’ evaluation of intervention from a statistical perspective” was held on 19-20 December 2024 both on-site at Chuo University and on-line. The lectures covered a wide range of topics including pragmatic trials, alternative designs with randomization, and quasi-experimental designs.

### The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Biometric Society of Japan

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Biometric Society of Japan (BSJ) will be held on 15-16 May 2025 at Toyama International Conference Center, Toyama, Japan. An invited session and a tutorial session will be organized.

**Meetings:**

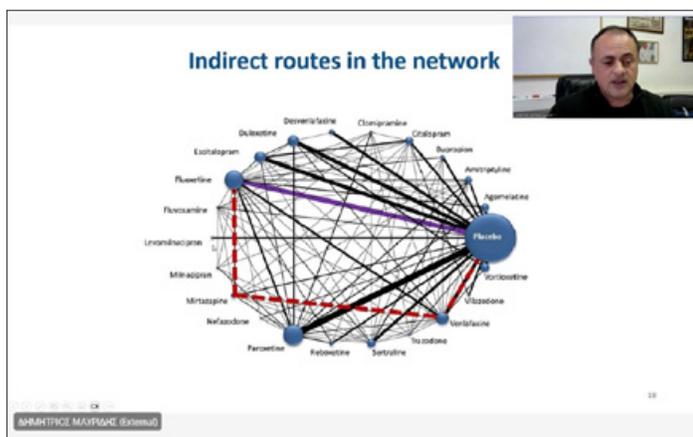
15-16 May 2025

**The 2025 Annual Meeting  
of the Biometric Society of Japan**

Toyama International Conference Center, Toyama, Japan

**Koji Oba and Masataka Taguri**  
Bulletin Correspondents**The Netherlands (ANed)**<https://www.vvsor.nl/biometrics/>

As part of our ongoing series of online seminars in Biostatistics we are honoured that Dimitris Mavridis from the University of Ioannina presented on 30 January on: “A gentle introduction to network meta-analysis. Current state and future challenges.” Presentation slides are available online. 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.

*Dimitris Mavridis, Speaker of online seminar*

We are preparing for two upcoming events in June. On 12 June, we will host the 11th online seminar in our Biostatistics Seminar Series, from 16h to 17h CET. The seminar will be presented by Wessel van Wieringen (Amsterdam UMC). Further details on the talk will be made available online shortly.

The following week, on Thursday 19 June, we have the Hans van Houwelingen award ceremony and symposium. The jury - Tomasz Burzykowski (UHasselt), Jessica Barrett (University of Cambridge), and Paul Blanche (University of Copenhagen)--has reviewed all submitted papers and selected a winner, who will be announced during the ceremony. The

symposium will feature presentations by the jury members on different topics. Detail and registration information can be found online. The afternoon will be preceded by the BMS-ANed General Assembly and will conclude with drinks.

**Sara Baart, PhD**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent**Polish (GPol)**

The 104th Scientific Session of the Polish Biometric Society took place on 7 February 2025, in hybrid mode – online and onsite at Collegium Maximum, University of Life Sciences in Poznań. The session was chaired by El bieta Kubera and featured three distinguished presentations. The first presentation, delivered by Agnieszka Wnuk from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, focused on the analysis of methane emissions using Sentinel-P5 data. The second presentation, by Szymon Ignaciuk from the University of Life Sciences in Lublin, explored research on angular inequalities and complex polynomials. The third presentation, by Alicja Lerczak from the University of Life Sciences in Poznań, provided an in-depth discussion on singular value decomposition. This session reaffirmed the Society’s dedication to advancing biometry through interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

The scientific session was followed by the Society’s General Assembly, which began with a moment of silence in memory of the recently deceased Professor Anna Bartkowiak. Key points of the Assembly’s program included the presentation of the 2024 annual report, the election of the Editor-in-Chief of Biometrical Letters, and an open discussion forum. We are pleased to announce that Professor Małgorzata Graczyk has been elected as the new editor-in-chief of Biometrical Letters. On this occasion, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the outgoing editor-in-chief, Professor Stanisław Mejza, for his many years of dedicated service. His unwavering commitment, leadership, and expertise have played a pivotal role in enhancing the journal’s reputation and expanding its reach within the global scientific community.

**El bieta Kubera**  
Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

## Western North American (WNAR)

### 2025 WNAR Election Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the WNAR election for 2025 positions. Congratulations to WNAR President-Elect Nairanjana (Jan) Dasgupta, Representatives-at-Large Kayleigh Keller and Katie Wilson, and Secretary Jessica Minnier.

Special thanks go to outgoing WNAR Past-President Elizabeth Juarez-Colunga, outgoing Representatives-at-Large Ting Ye and Yiliang Zhu, and Regional Advisory Board members Neby Bekele, Chiung-Yu Huang, and Jennifer Nelson. We are grateful for their efforts and dedication to WNAR.

We would like to thank all the WNAR members who volunteered to be candidates for these offices. WNAR is fortunate to have so many talented members willing to dedicate their time and energy to WNAR, which makes each election a choice among outstanding individuals.

### 2025 WNAR/IMS Meeting in Whistler, B.C., Canada

Registration is open for the 2025 WNAR/IMS meeting which will be held in Whistler, BC, Canada, from 15-18 June 2025. Whistler is 75 miles (120 km) north of Vancouver, B.C. The town includes Olympic Village and is a compact, chalet-style pedestrian village at the base of the Whistler and Blackcomb mountains. Whistler is a year-round destination that provides a true Canadian west coast mountain experience and offers a wide selection of restaurants, bars, spas, boutiques, and activities. Whistler's summer experiences offer a range of adventure from the legendary Bike Park and championship golf courses to glacier-fed lakes and alpine hikes. There will be short courses, a plenary lecture, invited and contributed sessions, young investigator events, and a Student Paper Award with oral sessions. Lihong Qi (UC Davis) is the WNAR program chair, and Catherine Lee (UCSF), Yuchen Han (CU Anschutz), and Zhixin Lun (CU Anschutz) are serving on the program committee along with WNAR President David Rocke (UC Davis). The Local Organizing Committee Chair is Michelle Miranda (University of Victoria). Registration information and other details about the meeting are available on the WNAR web page [www.wnar.org/wnar2025](http://www.wnar.org/wnar2025).

### 2025 WNAR Expanding Opportunities Workshop

The 2025 WNAR Expanding Opportunities Workshop (15 June - 16 June) is a satellite workshop held in conjunction with WNAR, emphasizing the importance

of mentorship and belonging in quantitative fields. The workshop will connect undergraduate students with professional (bio)statisticians and data scientists in academia, government, and industry. It is organized by the WNAR Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee and the WNAR Leadership Committee.

Note: due to current unexpected funding cuts, WNAR is seeking donations to help support this workshop for 2025. Please see the Donate page or donate when you register for the WNAR meeting, if you are able. Thank you for your support of WNAR's continued outreach to junior members and potential (bio) statisticians and data scientists.

### 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 included Indigenous peoples of North America and the Pacific Islands. Please encourage your students to apply for future opportunities. The deadline for applications was 1 May 2025.

### IBS/WNAR Outstanding Impact Award and Lectureship

Nominations for the annual IBS/WNAR Outstanding Impact Award and Lectureship will be due in fall of 2025, so please start thinking about nominating for the 2026 award submission. The awardee of the 2025 Outstanding Impact Award will be announced at the WNAR meeting in June.

The WNAR of IBS Outstanding impact and Lectureship Award was established in 2021 to recognize an outstanding individual or team, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality or citizenship, who has made a significant impact on our society through service and/or research in the development and application of statistical, mathematical, and data science theory and methods in the biomedical or environmental sciences. A significant impact can comprise either a single contribution of extraordinary merit or an outstanding aggregate of contributions that significantly impacts to biosciences and environmental sciences. More information about the award process can be found on the WNAR award website: <https://wnar.org/IBS/WNAR-Outstanding-Impact-Award>

**Jessica Minnier**

Biometric Bulletin Correspondent

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## *Announcements* **& UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

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

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

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