



Newsletter – November 2007

Edited by *Lola Ugarte*

A Few Words from the Chair

First off, congratulations again to the entire Barcelona group, especially Pedro Puig and Anna Espinal, for a truly successful *International Workshop on Statistical Modelling* during this past July. This was an exceptional event on many fronts: science, social gatherings, food, the region, and of course the opening concert! Also, congratulations to Sonja Greven (University of Munich), who won the Best Student Paper award. Those who missed the IWSM 2007, you will be particularly interested in the summary article in this issue, which by the way includes a link to the music.

As many of you know, the next two Workshops are in line: Utrecht, The Netherlands 2008 and Ithaca, New York (Cornell University) 2009. Important information regarding details and (nearing) deadlines for the IWSM 2008 follows in this issue. We will continue our tradition of an exciting student competition. The prizes at past workshops included books, software, and free registration and free short courses. As in Barcelona, the editors of our journal *Statistical Modelling*, will invite the Utrecht winner to submit their work for a fast-tracked review process and (possible) publication. Please encourage students to attend the meeting and participate in this competition.

The SMS executive committee has been at work, and is now in the process of updating and modernizing the SMS home page. The committee also began discussions about ear-marking some modest funds for a small competitive grant to promote statistical modelling through other workshops, courses, or possibly other avenues. More details to come on www.statmod.org.

Of course, the success of our society depends on you through your membership and by your support of the workshop and journal. Please be sure that your membership is current (if not, visit the homepage now to renew), and if you know of someone who may be interested in joining, then point them to www.statmod.org. Also, if you'd like to get more involved with the society, then feel free to contact me (chair@statmod.org). There are no elections this year, but we will be looking for nominations within a year.

See you in Utrecht.

Brian Marx

IWSM 2008: Utrecht 7-11 July

The meeting will take place in Utrecht and it will be hosted by the Universiteit Utrecht, with Will Jansen as the main organizer. Utrecht is an old fascinating city famous for the Dom Tower belonging to the former cathedral (Dom Church), and for the canal structure in the inner city. The inner city has largely retained its Medieval structure and several monumental churches have survived. Because of its central location, the City of Utrecht is well connected to the rest of the Netherlands.

An impressive programme of invited speakers is being prepared and will be ready very soon.

And in the true tradition of the Workshop I am sure that the contributed programme of talks and posters will be equally excellent.

If you want to present, there is still just time to get something in:



Deadline for abstracts is **10 February, 2008!**

And for students, please remember that you have the possibility to compete for the **Best IWSM 2008 Student Paper**, for the **Best IWSM 2008 Student Presentation** and for the **Best IWSM 2008 Student Poster** awards – see the website for information on these competitions.

For more details see:

<http://www.fss.uu.nl/iwsm2008/index.php>

Membership

The Society membership year has now been brought into line with the calendar year and also with the Journal subscription year (members always received the volume of the journal of the year in which they paid). This means that all 2007 memberships fell due for renewal at the start of 2008. An improved system for membership renewal and payment is a top priority of the incoming Executive.

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

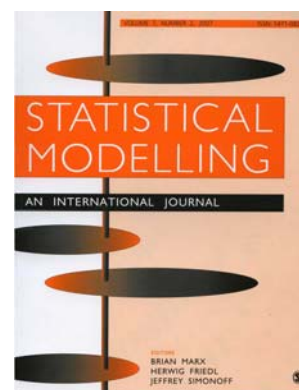
- from the Society website www.statmod.org
- or
- by registering as a participant at the IWSM (members who are already paid up in any year will receive a corresponding reduction in their IWSM registration fee)

Full (non-student) members will receive the 2008 volume of Statistical Modelling.

Ensure your continued membership by registering for IWSM 2008 or filling in the web membership form.

Statistical Modelling – Journal News

Statistical Modelling is now nearly finished with its seventh volume, marking our first full year with our new publisher SAGE Publications. We also have some very good news: our impact factor of 0.9, listed on the ISI Web of Knowledge. This represents a 50% impact factor increase from last year to this year, placing us in the top half of all statistics journals. As the health of the journal is strong, we are optimistic of seeing even more continued evidence of the journal's positive influence on our discipline.



We also have two exciting special issues on the horizon:

Quantile Regression, guest editors: Pin Ng, Keming Yu, and Yuanhua Feng.

Nonparametric Bayesian Models, guest editors: Peter Müller and Fernando Quintana.

Recently, we have had some rotation among our associate editors. Three of our editors have stepped down: Petros Dellaportas, Daniel Peña, and Robert Shumway. A very special thanks goes to these individuals, as they have been with the journal since its launch in 2000, and have seen much evolution, as well as growing pains. We now welcome six new associate editors: Leonhard Held, Thomas Kneib, Piotr Kokoszka, Arnost Komarek, Philippe Lambert, and Gilles Teyssiere.

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

*Brian Marx
Herwig Friedl
Jeffrey Simonoff*

IWSM 2007 – Barcelona

The Twenty Second Workshop on Statistical Modelling was held at Casa de Convalescència (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) in Barcelona, Spain, between 2nd and 6th July 2007. The meeting followed the one organised in Galway in 2006.



CASA DE CONVALESCÈNCIA (UAB)

The IWSM 2007 brought together 201 statisticians from 27 countries. There were 6 invited, renowned speakers (Bayarri, Casella, Keiding, Molenberghs, Pfeffermann, and Wood), 52 contributed oral communications, and 70 posters. The number of participants and presentations has confirmed the interest in statistical modelling and its importance. A full day pre-conference

short course on “Models for repeated discrete data” was given by Geert Molenberghs and Geert Verbeke, on July 1.

The proceedings book and the conference programme were delivered to all registered participants at their arrival. Proceedings book includes 128 papers signed by 290 different authors.

Students who attended the Workshop had the possibility to compete for several awards. **Sonja Greven** won the Best IWSM 2007 Student Paper award and there were two finalists for this award who had free registration at the IWSM 2007 and the Short Course: Dimitris Rizopoulos and Roula Tsonaka. The Best IWSM 2007 Student Presentation award was won by **Carlo Giovanni Camarda** and there were three winners for the Best IWSM 2007 Student Poster awards: **D-J. Lee** (best overall poster), **I. Kosmidis** (best scientific content) and **M.X. Rodríguez-Álvarez** (best poster presentation).

The scientific schedule of IWSM 2007 gave a possibility for the conference participants and accompanying persons to have an interesting social program.



The soprano Gurdeep Stephens



Welcoming reception at the City Council (Saló de Cent)

The conference officially began on Monday July 2 with the opening concert performed by Gurdeep Stephens (soprano) and Michael Greenacre (piano). The video of this concert can be downloaded from the IWSM 2007 website: <http://mat.uab.es/~iws2007/programme.html>



Excursion to Montserrat



The last day, the last picture...

On Monday evening there was a welcoming reception at the Barcelona City Council (Saló de Cent). This reception presided over by the City Councilor for Culture gave everyone a chance to relax and meet each other. On Wednesday evening a half-day excursion was made to Montserrat, visiting the Benedictine abbey, and Bodegas Torres where people enjoyed with a taste of wines. The Conference Dinner was celebrated in the restaurant Marina Moncho's on Thursday.

IWSM 2007 an unforgettable experience!

Pedro Puig

Other Forthcoming Events of Interest

XXIVth International Biometric Conference, July 13 -18, 2008, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

www.cpreRegistrations.com/ibc/2008

The next International Biometric Conference (IBC) will take place in July 2008 immediately after the ISWM in Utrecht, so now is the time to plan your summer to take in both of these exciting and high-quality meetings. As always the IBC will be a great opportunity for scientific and social interchange – a place to present and see new work in biometry, an occasion to meet old and new friends, experience traditional Irish hospitality (those of you who came to the IWSM in Galway may already know about this) and explore the wonderful city of Dublin.

The International Programme Committee has already put together an excellent programme of 20 Invited Sessions, covering many aspects of biometry, and on the Sunday there are four pre-conference full-day Short Courses. See the website for further details of the Scientific Programme and all other information on the meeting, including accommodation and social events.

Abstracts

The Scientific Programme includes a full Contributed Programme of both oral and poster presentations. Abstract submission is now open through our on-line system. Abstracts must be prepared using the Word or LaTeX templates provided – the system is very easy to use.

The deadline for abstract submission is **31st January 2008** and this will be strictly adhered to.

Registration

Registration for the meeting is now also open using the on-line system. This system allows you to manage all aspects of your conference participation from submitting abstracts, registration, booking accommodation, through to signing-up for short courses and social events. You can add more options at any point and get a profile of your current status.

So register now and start planning your trip to Dublin. The deadline for “early-bird” registration is 15th April 2008.

*John Hinde
Chair, LOC
IBC Dublin 2008*

29th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics, 17-21 August 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark

www.iscb2008.info

The 29th Annual Conference in Copenhagen will provide a forum for the international exchange of theory, methods and applications of biostatistics in medical research and practice among clinicians, statisticians and members of other disciplines, such as epidemiologists, clinical chemists and clinical pharmacologists, working or interested in the field of clinical biostatistics.

Scientific Program:

Niels Keiding (President's talk): Sampling patterns in event history analysis with applications to epidemiology

Invited sessions include: marginal structural modelling and evidence from nonrandomised studies (speaker Betty Kirkwood), recent developments in genetics (speakers: David Clayton, Jelle Goeman, Juni Palmgren), how to analyse an adaptive trial: Tests, estimates and confidence intervals (speakers: Werner Brannath and Carl-Fredrik Burman), working places in biostatistics (a session discussing non-scientific aspects of how we organise work and describing institutions employing biostatisticians, in an International European perspective). (speakers: Antonella Bacchieri, Michael Branson, Carmen Cadarso-Suárez, Saskia Le Cessie and Niels Kamp), and two more sessions in the planning stage.

Pre-conference courses

- Adaptive designs (Chris Jennison).
- Discrete longitudinal data (Geert Molenberghs).
- Non-inferiority studies (Simon Day and Nicole Close).
- One more pre-conference course in the planning stage.

This year there will be **two parallel mini-symposia**.

Congress Secretariat

ICS A/S Copenhagen, E-mail: iscb2008@ics.dk

Important Dates

15 December 2007	Call for Abstracts and Registration
01 March 2008	Final date for submission of abstracts
01 May 2008	Notification of abstract acceptance
01 June 2008	Final date for a low registration fee
17-21 August 2008	Conference dates

Philip Hougaard
Chairman Scientific Program Committee

**International Workshop on Spatio-Temporal Modelling (METMA4), 24-26
September 2008, Alghero, Sardinia, Italia**

www.metma.uji.es

The purpose of this fourth workshop on spatio-temporal modelling is to promote the development and application of spatial, temporal, and mainly spatio-temporal statistical methods to different fields related to the environment. The general aim is to bring together practitioners and researchers of different areas and countries all over the world. The scientific programme is characterized by having special invited sessions covering topics on the latest in theory, methods, and applications, as well as contributed papers and posters.

This METMA conference has been designated as a satellite conference of the annual TIES conference which will be held in British Columbia (Canada) on June 08-13, 2008. A special issue of *Environmetrics* will be devoted to the contents of the workshop.

Confirmed invited speakers are, among others, J.M. Angulo (Granada, Spain), G. Christakos (San Diego, USA), A. El-Shaarawi (National Water Research Institute, Canada), M. Genton (University of Geneva, Switzerland), W. González-Manteiga (Santiago de Compostela, Spain), C.-H. Huang (Academia Sinica, Taiwan), E. Renshaw (Strathclyde, UK), M.D. Ugarte (Pamplona, Spain), H. Zhang (Purdue University, USA).

The official web page will be available soon at <http://www.metma.uji.es>. Please direct any workshop questions to Jorge Mateu at: mateu@mat.uji.es with contact address: Department of Mathematics, Campus Riu Sec, University Jaume I of Castellon, E-12071 Castellon, Spain. Phone: +34.964.728391, Fax: +34.964.728429.

*Jorge Mateu
Organizing Committee*

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

<http://www.statmod.org>

and don't forget to renew your membership!

See you in Utrecht!