

working group “Statistical Methods in Clinical Research” of the GMDS (<<http://www.gmds.de>>) took place in Bochum at the Research Institute for Occupational Medicine of the Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention.

The invited talk was given by Peter Schlattman from Charité, Berlin who gave an invited lecture on “Mixed Effect Models for Longitudinal Data.” About 60 participants attended the four sessions on “Survival Analysis,” “Multivariate Techniques,” “Mixed Models for Binary, Count, and Continuous Data,” and “Epidemiologic Applications.” The talks covered a wide range of methodological issues in handling correlated data. Models were introduced and illustrated with applications. A lively discussion rounded off each talk.

The final lecture was held by Klaus Larsen from the Hvidovre University Hospital, Denmark on “New Measures for Understanding the Multilevel Logistic Regression Model.”

Abstracts and presentation slides are available at <<http://www.bgfa.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/specials/statmethoden.php>>.

*Johannes Hüsing*

## Japanese Region (JR)

### 2007-2008 Officers and Council Members

The Japanese Region elected the following members as 2007/2008 officers. They also serve as the officers of the Biometric Society of Japan.

President: Toshiro Tango (National Institute of Public Health)

Secretary: Kazue Yamaoka (National Institute of Public Health)

Treasurers: Chikuma Hamada (Tokyo University of Science) and Hideki Suganami (Kowa Co., Ltd.)

In addition to the officers above, the following 12 members were also elected as 2007-2008 council members of the Biometric Society of Japan: Manabu Iwasaki, Shigeyuki Matsui, Masaaki Matsuura, Yutaka Matsuyama, Mihoko Minami, Toshihiko Morikawa, Yasuo Ohashi, Megu Ohtaki, Hideki Origasa, Hironori Sakai, Toshiya Sato and Hiroyuki Uesaka.

*Mihoko Minami*

## Netherlands Region (ANed)

The first meeting of the newly established Channel Network – consisting of the English, French, Belgian and Dutch Regions of the IBS – was held from 8-11th May in Rolduc, Kerkrade, The Netherlands.

There were invited paper sessions on high-dimensional data, methods in epidemiology and adaptive design in clinical trials.

The winner of the 2006 ANed Biometry Award was Rachid El Galta as the first author of the paper:

El Galta, R., van Duijn, C.M., van Houwelingen, J.C., Houwing-Duistermaat, J.J. (2005). Score Statistic to Test for Genetic Correlation for Proband-family Design. *Annals of Human Genetics* 69: 373-381.

About the winning paper, the jury – consisting of Prof. Spiegelhalter (MRC, Cambridge), Werner Vach (Odense, Denmark) and Daniel Sørensen (Tjele, Denmark) – stated: “This is on the basis of the importance of the topic, the elegance of the method, and in particular the fact

that the authors have made such an effort to provide a readable and clear discussion of a complex topic requiring sophisticated ideas.”

### Runners-up among the 23 papers were:

Van Houwelingen, H.C., van de Velde, C.J.H., Stijnen, T. (2005). Interim Analysis on Survival Data: Its Potential Bias and how to Repair it. *Statistics in Medicine* 24: 2823-2835.

Lebrech, J., Putter, H., van Houwelingen, J.C. (2004). Score Test for Detecting Linkage to Complex Traits in Selected Samples. *Genetic Epidemiology* 27: 97-108.

*Pierre Verweij*

## Spanish Region (REsp)

### XI Spanish Biometric Conference & First Biometric Meeting of Iberian and Latin American Countries

We are pleased to announce the XI Spanish Biometric Conference, organized by the Department of Statistics of the University of Salamanca, took place in the city of Salamanca (Spain) from 20-22th June 2007.

The XI Spanish Biometric Conference is also the First Biometric Meeting of Iberian and Latin American countries aiming to promote scientific relations between researchers from the Spanish speaking communities throughout the world and Portugal.

We aim to bring together theoretical and applied researchers in all the areas where the subject is currently used: agronomy, sociology, psychology, education, ecology, biology, geology, linguistics, philosophy, biomedical research, health economics, marketing and management. Interdisciplinary contributions will be particularly welcome.

The conference website is <<http://www.ceib2007.com>>, and provides further details.

*Maria Durban*

## Sub-Saharan African Network (SUSAN)

The Sub-Saharan African Network (SUSAN) of the International Biometric Society (IBS) is a network comprising of International Biometric Society group members located in various countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The network exists to promote the advancement of the life sciences through the development, application, and dissemination of effective mathematical and statistical methods to its members.

### Tenth Biannual SUSAN Conference, 24-27th July 2007

Group Ghana – IBS will host the Tenth Biannual SUSAN Conference from 24 to 27th July 2007, at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ashanti Region of Ghana. The theme of the conference is “Challenges of the Millennium Development Goals – The Role of Biometricians.” The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum to discuss biometrical issues, problems and solutions that have been motivated by agricultural, health and medical concerns.

### Past SUSAN Conferences

- 1990 International Centre of Insect Physiology, Nairobi, Kenya
- 1991 University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 1992 Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
- 1993 University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 1994 University of Nairobi (venue-Mombasa), Kenya