

## Region & National Group News *Continued from p.7*

His current research interests are design and analysis of clinical trials with multiple primary variables, and statistical methodology for validation studies on alternatives to animal experiments.

### **The Annual Symposium 2007 and Tutorial Seminar**

The Annual Symposium 2007 of the Biometric Society of Japan was held on 26 May at Showa Women's University in Tokyo, Japan with approximately 200 participants. The theme of the symposium was "Risk Assessment and Management for the Environmental Sciences, Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Research." Excellent presentations were given in the special session on the same topic: "Different Aspects of Quantitative Risk Management" by Sadaaki Miyamoto from the University of Tsukuba, "Assessment of Risk of ILD by IRESSA Case-control Study" by Yohji Itoh from Astrazeneca K.K., "Data Mining Approach to Medical Risk Analysis" by Shusaku Tsumoto from Shimane University and "Aspects of Environmental Risks from Local to Global Issues: Chemical Material Risk as an Example" by Yukio Matsumoto from the Institute of Statistical Mathematics. Professor Stephen Walter (McMaster University, Canada) gave an exciting special talk on "Doctors and Patients Behaving Badly: How Can we Estimate Treatment Benefit if the Randomized Trial Assignment Is Not Always Followed?"

Presentations in contributed sessions also covered interesting topics: "A Scan Statistic for Signal Detection - an Application to the FDA AERS Data" by Masaaki Doi from TORAY Industries, and Kunihiro Takahashi, Masako Nishikawa and Toshiro Tango from the National Institute of Public Health; "Disease Surveillance Using Flexible Space-time Scan Statistic" by Kunihiro Takahashi and Toshiro Tango from the National Institute of Public Health; "Prediction of the Risk of Diabetes Using Longitudinal Records of Glycohemoglobin Levels" by Teruaki Watabe from Kochi University, Hirohisa Kishino from the University of Tokyo, and Noriaki Nakajima, Yoshiyasu Okuhara, Yasuhiro Kitazoe and Yusuke Sagara from Kochi University; "Testing the Superiority of Diagnostic Tests when they Are Applied to Identical Individuals" by Yoshiko Aoyama, Kenta Murotani and Takashi Yanagawa from Kurume University; "Proposal of a New Continual Reassessment Method Adaptively Changing the Prior Distribution Referring to Initial Subjects' Outcome" by Takashi Asakawa, Isao Yoshimura, and Chikuma Hamada from Tokyo University of Science and Naoki Ishizuka from the International Medical Center of Japan; "Research about the Imputation Methods for Missing Values in Longitudinal Data on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease" by Masato Suzuki from GlaxoSmithkline K.K., Isao Yoshimura and Chikuma Hamada from Tokyo University of Science; and "An Index for Assessment of Dynamic Allocation of Treatments" by Tsugio Nishi from Osaka University.

Toshiya Sato from Kyoto University gave a tutorial seminar on "Epidemiologic Study Designs and Estimation of Exposure Effects" on 25 May at the same place. The room was filled with people who enjoyed a very interesting and comprehensive lecture.

Special thanks go out to our symposium organizers: Toshihiko Morikawa from Kurume University, Masaaki Matsuura from the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, Cancer Institute and Shigeyuki Matsui from Kyoto University.

### **The 2007 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting, 6-9 September, Kobe, Japan**

The 2007 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting will take place on 6-9 September, at Kobe University, Kobe-shi, Hyogo, JAPAN. The Biometric Society of Japan is one of five sponsoring organizations of the meeting. The meeting will begin with three tutorial sessions: "Bayesian Approach to Network Models," "Knowledge Discovery Based on a Statistical Approach from a Large-scale Dataset," and "An Introduction to Competing Risk Model in Analysis of Survival Data" followed by a public lecture on "EU and Japanese Economies Observed from Statistical Data" on 6 September. The scientific committee is preparing a program consisting of 13 invited sessions, more than 40 contributed sessions and competition sessions for young researchers.

### **East Asia Regional Biometric Conference 2007 (EAR-BC'07) 9-11 December 2007, Tokyo, Japan**

We invite you to join us in Tokyo for the East Asia Regional Biometric Conference 2007, 9-11 December, at the University of Tokyo Yayoi Auditorium Ichijo Hall. The opening ceremony: "Introduction of IBS and its Regional Activities" will be chaired by Ashwini Mathur (the IBS General Secretary) and invited speakers for the ceremony include Thomas Louis (the IBS president), Taerim Lee (the Korean Region President), H. Sridhara (the Indian Region President) and Ji-Qian Fang (Chinese Group Secretary). The Keynote lecture will be given by Toshiro Tango, the President of the Japanese Region and Director, Department of Technology Assessment and Biostatistics, National Institute of Public Health. The list of other international invited speakers includes, Hao Yuan-Tao (Sun Yat-Sen University, China), Ayanendranath Basu (Indian Statistical Institute, India), Jae Won Lee (Korea University, Korea) and more. Scientific programme chair is Toshiya Sato of Kyoto University. Abstract submission and registration starts in September.

For further details, visit the conference website <[http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jbs/index\\_e.html](http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jbs/index_e.html)>. Information will be placed on the website as the conference details are developed further.

### **Other JR news**

The special seminar entitled "Randomization in Clinical Trials" was held on 12 January at Tokyo University. Professor William F. Rosenberger (George Mason University, USA) gave a special talk on "Sequential Monitoring of Randomization Tests." The seminar hall was filled with about 100 people.

*Mihoko Minami*

## **Spanish Region (REsp)**

### **XIth SPANISH BIOMETRIC CONFERENCE & FIRST BIOMETRIC MEETING OF IBERIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES**

The XIth Conference of the Spanish Region and the First Biometric Meeting of Iberian and Latin American Countries was held at the University of Salamanca between the 20 and 22 of June. There were more than two hundred attendees, almost half of them coming from Latin American countries. The local organization was led by Purificación Galindo with the support from a fantastic group of members of the Statistics Department. They all are to be congratulated on the success of the conference and on all the hard work they put to make this first joint meeting happen. The Scientific Committee prepared an exciting

program with eight invited sessions, seven contributed sessions, 22 parallel sessions and three poster sessions. There was also a pre-conference, one-day course on "Applied Non-linear Mixed Models" lectured by R  ul Macchiavelli.

In the opening session, Juan Luis Chorro, president of the Spanish Region, addressed issues related to inference based on bootstrapping. The invited talks covered several topics, among them, Laura Pla (Central American-Caribbean Region) talked about "Zero Inflated Models for Applied Biodiversity," Geert Molenberghs (Belgian Region) discussed topics on "Formal and Informal Model Selection and Assessment when Data are Incomplete," Antonio Mart  n gave an interesting talk on "Bioequivalence Tests." Carles Cuadras talked about "Parametric Dynamic Correspondence Analysis," and Mario Ojeda presented "A Review of Statistical Models." Andrew Mead (British and Irish Region) gave the last invited talk on "Experimental Design and Analysis for Large Microarray Experiments." The contributed sessions included talks on biometric methods in medical research, psychometric applications, statistical methods in genetic epidemiology, etc. One of the contributed sessions was dedicated to young statisticians participating in the Young Researchers Competition. There were four presenters in this section and the level of the talks was outstanding.



Delegates at the welcoming wine reception



Participants of the Young Researcher Competition. From left to right: Elisabeth Guin  , Adri  n Leguina, Nuria Porta and Mar  a Jos   Nueda

The prize was awarded to Nuria Porta for her talk, "Comparison of Alternative Regression Approaches for Competing Risks." The poster sessions were very successful with about 100 contributions. The meeting closed with a very entertaining talk on "A Measure of Reality" by Fernando Mallo.

On the fun side of the meeting, on the evening of the 20th of June we attended a most enjoyable wine reception held at the cloister of "Colegio Fonseca" (a beautiful XVIth century building where the meeting was held). The local committee also organized a fantastic guided visit of Salamanca which is one of the World Heritage cities in Spain. Finally, on the last day of the meeting we attended a wonderful conference dinner where we could try the food and wine from this region of Spain and enjoyed the local hospitality.

Abstracts of talks and posters can be found at < <http://www.ceib2007.com/>>.

## Sub-Saharan Network (SUSAN)

**SUSAN 2007 Conference at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana, 23rd-27th July 2007**

The just concluded SUSAN 2007 conference workshop was a big success despite unforeseen hitches here and there. The meeting was attended by members across the entire sub-Saharan Africa. Group Nigeria sent the biggest representation overall and I wish to congratulate the group for this. The conference was preceded by a workshop on R application and Bayesian Statistics which was taught by Statisticians in KNUST after original workshop presenters were unable to attend due to unexpected commitments.

Participants were given a thorough introduction to R and are now in a position to extend their skills through self learning since R is a free online accessible software.

The conference was officially opened by a high powered delegation from KNUST led by the Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. A. Menya. During the opening ceremony Sagary Nokoe was also officially presented with the distinguished Rob Kempton Award by Andrew Mead, the Vice President of the IBS. In attendance was the Ghana government statistician Prof. Nsowah-Nuamah whose key note speech was on achieving the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs). The audience was also treated to a moving video clip on the MDGs by Prof. Bentil of University of Vermont, USA.

During the week conference papers were presented ranging from application in health and medical research, agriculture, official statistics, ecology to biotechnological applications. There were two parallel sessions throughout due to the volume of papers which were submitted. The network was privileged to have Andrew Mead in attendance who apart from his official capacity as the IBS, VP also presented an invited talk on "Design and Analysis of Micro-array Designs." The network was also delighted to have in attendance Scarlet Bellamy from the University of Pennsylvania who gave an invited talk on "Design and Analysis Challenges in Dyad Based Group Randomized Trials." Both talks generated heated debate on design issues in both agriculture and health research particularly clinical trials. Scarlet and Andrew met and made contact with many participants who showed interest to continue collaboration with their home institutions in their areas of research.

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