Special thanks go out to our program committee Toshihiko Morikawa of Kurume University, Masaaki Matsuura of the Cancer Institute of the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research and Shigeyuki Matsui of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics.

Mihoko Minami

Spanish Region (REsp)

GUDO 4. IVth Joint Meeting of Spanish Region of the Biometric Society and the Spanish Epidemiology Society

Opening session: From left to right, Santiago Pérez Hoyos, from the Spanish Society of Epidemiology; Rafael Crespo, Dean from the Mathematics Faculty of Universitat de Valencia; Manuel Escolano, General Director of the Public Health Agency in Valencia; Antonio López, president of the Organizing Committee; and María Durbán, Secretary of the Spanish Biometric Society

Meeting participants attending the Opening Session

The 4th joint meeting of the Spanish Region of the Biometric Society and the Spanish Epidemiology Society was held at the University of Valencia on the 19 and 20 of June 2008. Contributions representing a meeting point between Epidemiology and Biometry were especially encouraged. Alan Gelfand gave a very interesting pre-meeting three-day course on "Hierarchical Modeling and Analysis for Spatial and Spatio-temporal Data." The program included two invited sessions, a special session, a contributed session, a poster session and a discussion session.

The four invited speakers have a wide research trajectory on different areas of application of Biometry and Epidemiology. In the first session, Alan Gelfand talked about "Spatio-temporal Modeling of Fine Particulate Matter" and Ana Díez Roux discussed topics on "Epidemiology and Spatial Health Disparities." In the second session, Berta Ibañez gave a talk on "Advances and Challenges in Disease Mapping" and Carmen Cadarso talked about "Flexible Estimation of Effect Size in Epidemiological Studies."

In the special session, topics on "Computational Tools of Epidemiologic Surveillance" were discussed, with the participation of David Conesa,

Jose Eugenio Lozano and Antonio López-Quílez. The contributed sessions included talks on disease mapping, functional analysis, survival analysis, or disease association. In the poster session, more than 20 participants could share their work in an informal and relaxing atmosphere. The meeting was closed with a discussion session on "Socioeconomic, Environmental and Mortality Disparities in Small Areas of Big Cities in Spain."

More information about the meeting can be found at <https://www.uv.es/gudo4/>.

Nuria Porta

The Netherlands Region (Aned)

On 26 November 2008, Hans van Houwelingen will give his farewell lecture to mark his retirement as a professor from the Leiden University Medical Centre. Theo Stijnen, Saskia le Cessie and Hein Putter are organizing a one-day symposium to honor Hans's enormous contributions to Medical Statistics both in the Netherlands and internationally.

The preliminary program is including talks by Geert Molenberghs (RBe), Per Kragh Andersen (NR), Ulrich Mansmann (DR) and Stephen Senn (ROeS), and a Farewell lecture by Hans van Houwelingen followed by a reception.

All interested are cordially invited. For more details see <www.msbi.nl>.

Liesbeth de Wreede

Western North American Region (WNAR)

2008 WNAR/IMS Spring Meeting

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the WNAR/IMS was held at the University of California, Davis, CA from 22-25 June, with approximately 140 participants.

The meeting began with a short course on "R Survey Package Analyses for Two Phase Studies, with Applications in Epidemiology" by Thomas Lumley (ENAR) and Norm Breslow from the University of Washington. Jerry Lawless (ENAR) from the University of Waterloo gave a stimulating presentation entitled, "Making Sense of Life History Processes through Multi-State Models," for the WNAR Presidential Invited Address. Peter Bartlett from the University of California, Berkeley, gave an exciting presentation on "Convex Methods for Pattern Classification."

Excellent presentations were given by invited speakers: John Marioni from the University of Chicago, Bonnie LaFleur (ENAR) from the University of Utah, Pei Wang from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Pei-Fen Kuan from the University of Wisconsin in the session "Statistical Issues for Emergent Measurement Methods in Biomedical Research;" Chris Wild from the University of Auckland, Jason Nielsen from Carleton University, Leilei Zeng (ENAR) from Simon Fraser University, Peter Song (ENAR) from the University of Michigan in the session "Models for Clustered Longitudinal and Case Control Studies;" Adam Szpiro from the University of Washington, Daniel Gillen from the University of California, Irvine, Ken Rice from the University of Washington, David Draper from the University of California, Santa Cruz in the session "Connections between Bayesian