

## Region & National Group News

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a set of loaded dice, and inserted many statistical jokes in his extensive collection of teaching slides. The collection of lecture notes for medical students that Roel wrote with his colleagues Henk de Jonge and Chris Rümke was famous in the Netherlands. At the end of the 1980s, when Roel decided to replace the lecture notes with a modern biostatistics book many students asked for a return to the lecture notes.

After a remarkable and long career in biostatistics, Roel retired at the age of 70 in 1996, but he continued to attend scientific meetings. The last annual ISCB meeting he attended was the 24th in Dijon, 2002, where he still asked questions in his own characteristic voice after presentations. He was proud of not having missed a single ISCB meeting before his illness.

We remember him not only as a bright biostatistician, but as a stimulating, warm, friendly, amiable and cheerful man, with a good sense of humor and always good company. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, children and grandchildren for the loss of their husband, father and grandfather.

**Liesbeth de Wreede**

### Spanish Region (REsp)

#### Improved Website for the Spanish Region

Last January, the new web site of the Spanish Region of IBS was launched, <http://biometricsociety.net>. After some time analyzing the drawbacks of the old web page, the Spanish Council decided to improve its design. The results are outstanding: the new design is attractive and up-to-date, and promotes and intensifies interactions between the members of the Spanish Region. While offering information about meetings and activities of interest to our members, the new web site also allows the user to make suggestions and announcements through the web; these easily can be implemented and released in short time. Furthermore, discussion forums are available, and members are encouraged to discuss topics of common interest to the members of the Society.

#### 2009 Conference of the Spanish Region

The XII Conference of the Spanish Region of the IBS will be held 23-25 September 2009 in Cádiz, Spain. Further information is available on the web site, <http://ceb2009.uca.es/>.

**Nuria Porta**

### Western North American Region (WNAR)

#### 2010 WNAR Spring Meeting

Save the date. The 2010 WNAR spring meeting will be held 20-23 June on the campus of the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. The local organizers are Ying Qing and Gary Chan. Information will be posted on the WNAR website <http://www.wnar.org/> as it becomes available.

#### 2010 WNAR Student Paper Competition

As a reminder, WNAR sponsors students who enter the student paper competition receive travel assistance and reduced registration fees. Information on the 2010 WNAR Student Paper Competition, registration information, and program details for the meeting will be posted on the WNAR website <http://www.wnar.org/> as it becomes available. We look forward to seeing you there.