

Announcements and News

Introducing BIOSTATNET, a New Spanish Biostatistics Network

Several IBS members have submitted enthusiastic reports about a new initiative proposed to the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation by a group of Spanish biostatisticians. The proposed joint network (BIOSTATNET) was approved very recently in the form of a scientific project. The leaders of BIOSTATNET include Carmen Cadarso-Suárez, Lupe Gomez, Vicente Nunez-Anton, Susie Bayarri, Antonio Martin-Andrés, María Durbán Ruguera, Jesús López-Fidalgo, and Pere Puig Casado. BIOSTATNET is a Spanish government sponsored network of academic, industrial, and hospital-based biostatisticians from all over Spain as well as a number of external partners, including universities and health institutions in other European countries, the United States, and Central and South America. Nodes are formed according to existing links and research lines, young investigators are involved prominently, and updated modes of communication (e.g., Facebook) may be used to form sub-communities. The BIOSTATNET webpage is <<http://www.biostatnet.org>>. A summary of the inaugural meeting in January 2011 at the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and a photograph of the participants are given below.



Attendees at the first meeting of the Biostatistics Spanish Network (BIOSTATNET), 21 – 22 January 2011 at the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain

IBC 2012, Kobe, Japan, Call for Short Course Proposals

The Education Committee of the XXVIth International Biometric Conference (IBC), to be held 26 – 31 August 2012, in Kobe, Japan, is calling for short course proposals. Our goal is to provide courses that will attract registrants from a number of different application areas. We also want to reach out to potential participants from economically developing countries. Course selection will be by committee consensus and will take into account how the courses enhance the scientific program of the IBC and complement our satellite conferences, all of which still are in development. Visit the IBS website for complete details: <http://tibs.org/interior.aspx?id=3048>



First Meeting of the Biostatistics Spanish Network (BIOSTATNET)

The first meeting of the Spanish Biostatistics Network (BIOSTATNET) was held on the 21st and 22nd of January 2011 at the Faculty of Medicine of the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela.

BIOSTATNET was born as a Complementary Action for Mathematics Research Projects, awarded in 2010 by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation.

BIOSTATNET currently brings together more than 150 members, organized in 8 nodes led by university-based biostatisticians with research projects in statistics, teaching experience in biostatistics, and with close collaborations with biomedical researchers. BIOSTATNET represents the various lines of research of each participating node. Its main objectives are: (a) to coordinate the research and teaching in Biostatistics in Spain, and strengthen its international projection; (b) to promote adequate training in Biostatistics; (c) to promote knowledge transfer and applications in Biomedicine.

The nodes currently constituting BIOSTATNET are: (i) Node Madrid, led by María Durbán Reguera of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid; (ii) Node Castilla La Mancha – OED, led by Jesús López Fidalgo of Universidad de Castilla la Mancha; (iii) Node Catalunya – BIO, led by Guadalupe Gómez i Melis of Universidad Politècnica de Catalunya; (iv) Node Catalunya – SEA, led by Pere Puig Casado; (v) Node Galicia, led by Carmen Cadarso-Suárez of Universidad de Santiago de Compostela; (vi) Node Granada, led by Antonio Martín Andrés de la Universidad de Granada; (vii) Node País Vasco, led by Vicente Núñez-Antón of Universidad del País Vasco (UPV/EHU); and (viii) Node Valencia – GEEITEMA, led by María Jesús Bayarri García of Universidad de Valencia. Members of each node come from Spanish Universities, Health Institutions, and International Universities in Portugal, Belgium, United States, the Netherlands, Greece, Chili, Mexico, Colombia, and Puerto Rico, among others.

In this first meeting, the leaders of each node presented the activities of their node, so that all members and attending guests have a good perspective on the teaching, research, consulting, and technology transfer activities being carried out in each node. Also, members of Node Catalunya – BIO (Carles Serrat i Piè and Erik Cobo Valeri) organized workshops where several topics related to the future of the Network were discussed. For example, “BIOSTATNET and young researchers,” “BIOSTATNET and teaching,” “BIOSTATNET and research,” and “BIOSTATNET and technology transfer.” The conclusion reached will be put into action in the near future, and will help to achieve the objectives of BIOSTATNET. Finally, one of the members of Node Galicia, Prof. Geert Molenberghs (Interuniversity Institute for Biostatistics and statistical Bioinformatics, I-BioStat, of the Universiteit Hasselt & Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) presented the talk: “The Biostatistics Scientist in a High-Profile Academic Environment,” in which he shared with the audiences his extensive experience in research and teaching biostatistics. The activities and discussions contributed in this first meeting to laying the foundation for the achievement of the Network’s main objectives: coordinating the research and teaching of biostatistics in Spain, and strengthen its international standing.

BIOSTATNET webpage is already available (<http://www.biostatnet.org>).