

Spanish Region (REsp)

XIII Spanish Biometric Conference and 3rd Ibero-American Biometry Meeting – 2011

The XIIIth Spanish Biometry Conference and 3rd Ibero-American Biometry Meeting – 2011 was held in Barcelona between 7 - 9 September. The event, co-hosted by the University of Barcelona (UB) and the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), took place jointly in the Faculty of Biology (UB) and the faculty of Mathematics and Statistics (UPC). The more than 150 attendees were warmly received by the local organization, led by M. Carmen Ruiz de Villa, chair of the organizing committee. The organizing committee was formed by members of the Departments of Statistics (UB) and Statistics and Research Operations (UPC). They all are to be congratulated for the success of the meeting.

The Scientific programme included 4 invited sessions, 14 contributed sessions and 3 poster sessions. The invited sessions covered several topics. In the opening session the President of the Spanish Region, Prof. Carmelo Ávila from the University of Salamanca, addressed interesting issues on "The EDA role in statistics nowadays: some thoughts". Prof. Carmen Cadarso from the University of Santiago presented her work on "Application of generalized additive models in analysing neuronal data". Prof. Julio Di Rienzo, from the University of Córdoba (Argentina) and President of the Argentinian Region, talked about "A new developing model for R-based applications". Just before the closing session, Prof. Urania Dafni, Director of the Laboratory of Biostatistics at the University of Athens, presented her interesting work on "Crossover in clinical trials: estimation of survival curves in the case of time varying treatment".

The contributed sessions included talks on design of experiments, multivariate analysis, genetics and bioinformatics, statistical inference, survival analysis, spatial statistics, Bayesian statistics and statistical modelling. One of the contributed sessions was dedicated to young statisticians participating in the Young Researchers Awards: there were 5 presenters and the level of the talks was outstanding. The prize was awarded to Mar Rodriguez Gironde for her talk "Flexible geoadditive survival analysis of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in Peru". The poster sessions included more than 70 contributions.

As a novelty in this meeting an "Italian-Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR)" session was organized, consisting of four talks presented by



Conference participants during coffee break at the Faculty of Biology (UB)

one senior researcher and one student from each region. This session is a first effort to strengthen the relationships between the different Mediterranean societies which, while not (yet) in a network, are looking forward to increasing their interrelation and collaboration.

The social program of the meeting began with a visit to Caves Freixenet, a popular wine-cellar in which cava (Catalan sparkling wine) is produced. The excursion included a visit through the oldest part of the cellars, excavated in 1922, and the process of creating cava was explained. Participants had the opportunity to taste their well-known wines. The gala dinner was held the evening of 8 September, and from the restaurant attendees could admire the astonishing views of the light and water of the Magic Fountains in Barcelona.

Photographs of the conference are shown below. Abstracts of talks and posters can be found at <http://www.biometria.org.es/>.



Mrs. Mar Rodriguez Gironde receiving the Young Researchers Competition Award from M. Carmen Ruiz de Villa, Chair of the organizing committee, Carmelo Ávila, President of the Spanish Region, and Raul Machiavelli, President of the jury, during the conference dinner



Attendees during a contributed session at the Faculty of Mathematics and Statistics (UPC)

Nuria Porta