

## Presidents Corner

Continued from p. 1

Treasurer provides day-to-day oversight.

The Strategic Issues Committee, chaired by Richardus Vonk (DR), shall collect, investigate, develop and, where appropriate, implement ideas for the development of the Society.

Murali Haran (ENAR) has been appointed as IBS representative to the Management Committee of the *Journal of Biological, Agricultural and Environmental Statistics* (JABES).

I also would like to welcome the newly formed Singapore Region, and congratulate the reinstatement of Uganda Region of IBS.

I look forward with great anticipation, not only to the IBC in Kobe, Japan, this coming 26 - 31 August, but also to the 6 - 11 July 2014 IBC in Florence, Italy. Brian Cullis (AR) will chair the International Programme Committee for the 2014 Conference and has helped recruit a full slate of committee members. The Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Adriano Decarli (RItI), already is preparing the Web-site for IBC 2014 and the material to be presented to the IBC 2012 participants. Start making plans to go to Florence in 2014!

As part of the Officers Visitation Program, I was invited to the ENAR meeting held in Washington DC I - 4 April. It was a very rich experience to see how the largest Region of the IBS is running. I was very impressed by the "Workshop for Junior Researchers," an ENAR pre-conference activity. I also attended the RBras meeting held in my Department, 5 - 9 May. I enjoyed both of these otherwise very different meetings, with ENAR more focused on Statistics in Health Sciences and RBras more focused on Statistics in Agriculture.

In her Presidential Invited Address during the ENAR meeting, Marie Davidian described a training programme in the US that has been in place since 2004, funded by grants from the US National Institutes of Health. It has demonstrated how making talented undergraduates aware of career opportunities for biostatisticians can inspire them to seek advanced graduate-level training in biostatistics and statistics. The Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics (SIBS) has been held every summer since 2004, first at the three original sites (Boston University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and North Carolina State University-Duke Clinical Research Institute, 2004-2009) and in 2010 - 2012 at the original sites plus five more (Emory University, University of Iowa, University of Pittsburgh, University of South Florida, and Washington University in St. Louis). A grant competition to fund up to seven sites for 2013 - 2015 is ongoing. Each site brings 20 - 25 undergraduates from across the US to campus for a 6-7 week program covering statistical principles and methods, the role of statistics in health sciences research, and careers for biostatisticians through lectures; hands-on training in SAS, R, and data analysis; field trips; and data analysis projects. Over the past 9 years, the programme has encouraged hundreds of students to enter MS or PhD programs in biostatistics/statistics, many of whom might have otherwise chosen different fields of study. More information is available at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/funding/training/redbook/sibsweb.htm>. We would like to publish descriptions of other initiatives like this one in the *Biometric Bulletin*.

I am pleased to announce that Professor Susan R. Wilson (AR) has been awarded Honorary life member, Marie Davidian (ENAR) will be receiving the Award of Outstanding Service to IBS, and Paul

Janssen will be receiving the Rob Kempton Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Biometry in the Developing World. Congratulations to Susan, Marie, and Paul, who will be joining a select cohort of fine statisticians who have served the Society in a remarkable and outstanding fashion. All the awardees will be formally recognized during the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday evening at 18:15 during the IBC in Kobe.

IBS has not yet completed the transition to the new governance structure, and the Council remains the governing body until the Executive Board Directors are elected. The review of the transition process to the new governance structure and the implementation plan has been released to all members. All governance documentation is available on the IBS website in the *members only* section. The Executive Committee revised a few of the current Bylaws and made the proposed amendments available for review and comment on the Discussion Forum for a one-month period. Council will then vote on the amendments. Once approved, amendments are incorporated into the Bylaws; it will be recommended that members approve a merger of the Constitution into the bylaws via a membership vote (thus effectively dissolving the Constitution). Subsequently, the Executive Board will be formed (again via a membership vote) to become the governing body of our Society. Council also decided that all members will vote for the president-elect 2013.

I would like to finish by reminding you of the upcoming IBC 2012 in Kobe, Japan. Preparations are well underway, Kaye Basford (AR), the organizing President, the International Programme Committee, chaired by Christine McLaren (WNAR), and the Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Toshiro Tango (JR), have been working hard to make the meeting a resounding success. The Japanese region really is looking forward to welcoming all visitors, and looks to your support for the success of the meeting. I am confident that the conference will be fantastic, both scientifically and socially.

I look forward to welcoming many of you to Kobe in August.

Clarice Garcia Borges Demétrio  
[clarice.demetrio@usp.br](mailto:clarice.demetrio@usp.br)

## From the Editor

Continued from p. 2

would like to welcome the new Correspondent from the German Region, Axel Benner from the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg, and thank the previous Correspondent from the German Region, Johannes Hüsing, for his service. I also would like to welcome the new Correspondent from the Spanish Region, Anabel Forte, and thank the previous Correspondent from the Spanish Region, Núria Porta, for her service.

As always, the Bulletin welcomes announcements, news, and comments from the designated regional and group correspondents as well as other readers. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,  
Roslyn Stone