

Argentinian Region (ARrg)

• Ibero-American Meeting of Biometrics

The IVth Ibero-American Meeting of Statistical Societies took place last 25th-27th September in Mar del Plata, Argentina. Four international Regions of the IBS organized the meeting: Argentinian Region, Chilean Region, Spanish Region and Central American & Caribbean Region. In that opportunity more than 100 participants from 13 countries attended the meeting. A total of 120 contributions were presented as posters. We are pleased to announce that 40 of the participants were undergraduate students and 48 were graduate students, which indicated young statistician participation.



The following activities were developed:

- **Guest Conferences:** We enjoyed the presence of the President of the International Biometric Society, Clarice Demetrio from ESALQ, Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil); Sergio Bramardi from National University of Comahue (Argentina), J.R. Demey from IDEA (Venezuela), Purificación Galindo from Salamanca University (Spain), Raúl Macchiavelli from University of Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico), Pablo Verde from University of Düsseldorf (Germany) and Elsa M. Rodríguez from National University of Mar del Plata (Argentina).
- **Young Biometricians Contest:** There were four groups that sent papers, and their analyses were presented in a special session in IVth Ibero-American Meeting of Biometrics. Two groups were integrated by undergraduate students from College of Agriculture at Nordeste National University (*Universidad Nacional del Nordeste*) and Statistician College at Rosario National University (*Universidad Nacional de Rosario*), and the other groups by graduates from the Master Science Program in Statistics Applied at Córdoba National University and PhD Program in Agronomy at Buenos Aires University. The winners were: in undergraduate level, the first award was shared among Fernanda Bonifazi, Cecilia Guillamet Chargué, Lucía Papa and Nydia Alejandra Montoya. Whereas in graduate level, the first prize was to Paola Salvatierra and Laura Zingaretti, and the second prize was to Ramiro Curti. The participants received a data set from Botanical Institute of Nordeste, Agriculture College at National University of Nordeste (*Universidad Nacional del Nordeste*) about Genetic Variability in *Paspalum simplex*. We acknowledge Andrea Brugnoti for offering the data set.

- **In Situ Analysis:** There were three sessions of *In Situ* analysis: "Complex Mixed Model to Analyze yield in grass with InfoStat Software," that was coordinated by Raúl Macchiavelli (Puerto Rico University, Caribbean Region of IBS), Fernando Casanoves (CATIE-Costa Rica, Argentinian Region of IBS) and Julio Di Rienzo (National University of Córdoba, President of Argentinian Region of IBS). "An Introduction to Statistical Graphics with R" by Pablo E. Verde from Center for Clinical Trials, University of Düsseldorf, Germany, and "Survival Curves of Share fragility in the environmental and genetics factors associated with human longevity" by G. Garibotti.



- **Short Course:** María Durban Reguera from Spain talked about "Splines with penalized: Theory and their applications in biostatistics" and Fernando Casanoves (CATIE-Costa Rica, Argentinian Region of IBS), Julio Di Rienzo (National University of Córdoba, President of Argentinian Region of IBS), Laura Pla, María del Carmen Romero and S. Vilchez Mendoza teaches about "QEco: tool to analyze ecological communities."
- **Round Table Conferences:** Rodolfo Cantet from Buenos Aires University and Lucía Gutierrez from FAGRO- UDELAR (Biometrics, Statistics and Informatics Department, Agriculture College, University of Uruguay), both members of Argentinian Region of IBS, spoke about "Statistical Analysis in Genomic Data."
- **Cultural Activities – Photo Contest:** For the first time, we invited the membership of IBS to participate by taking photos and sending to us. The "Cultural Activities" were organized by Teresa Boca, Beatriz Lupin and Barnarda Ballesteros. The new initiative was to promote other activities among statisticians. We are pleased to invite all persons to view the photos and video here: <https://www.facebook.com/ConcursoFotografiaExposicionesDelBio?ref=ts&fref=ts>.

• New Argentinian Region of IBS Committee

We would like to thank the previous Committee and congratulate the newly elected Committee of Argentinian Region of IBS who begins their activities in January of 2014. The new Committee members are:

President: María Gabriela Cendoya (Universidad de Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires-Mar del Plata University)
Vice-President: Edgardo Rodriguez (Universidad del Nordeste. Buenos Aires – Nordeste University)
Secretary: Guillermo Sabino (Neuquen)
Treasurer: María Inés Urrutia (La Plata)
First Vocal: Ana María Pereyra (Buenos Aires)
Second Vocal: Liliana Contini (Santa Fe)
First Vocal (Substitute): Osvaldo Arce (Tucuman)
Second Vocal (Substitute): Roxana Cepeda
Account Reviser: Laura Itatí Gimenez (Salta)
Account Reviser (Substitute): Ana María Sancho (Buenos Aires)

• Academic Awards

Congratulations to Master in Data Mining & Knowledge Discovery at UBA (Buenos Aires University) and Ana Silvia Haedo (Director of Master), for 'Sadosky 2013 Awards in Human Resources' session (<http://triton.exp.dc.uba.ar/datamining>).

— Cecilia Bruno

Australasian Region (AR)

• Professor Terry Speed awarded Prime Minister's Prize for Science

We are delighted to announce that eminent Australian statistician Professor Terry Speed has been awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Science. As reported on the Australian Government Department of Industry website: "The 2013 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science were awarded at a presentation ceremony held on 30 October 2013. The five prizes are awarded annually and are a tribute to the contributions that our scientists and science teachers are making to Australia's current and future scientific capabilities. This year's \$300,000 major prize, the Prime Minister's Prize for Science was awarded to Professor Terry Speed for his contribution to making sense of genomics and related technologies. Professor Speed is Head of Bioinformatics at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research." Congratulations to Terry on this very well deserved award. It's also a great result for statistics in Australia.



The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia (on right) with Professor Terry Speed, recipient of the 2013 Prime Minister's Prize for Science.

• Upcoming Conferences

Below are details of two statistical conferences to be held in Australia in 2014.

• Dental Biostats Conference 2014

The 6th International Dental Biostats Conference will be held from 1-3 April 2014 at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide. Hosted by The University of Adelaide, the conference theme is "Addressing the complexities in analysing oral health data." The conference will cover state of the art methodologies on the design, conduct and analysis of oral health research, in particular but not restricted to clinical trials, population studies and network-meta-analysis. Pre- and post-conference workshops will also be held. For further information see the website: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/dentalbiostat>.

• Australian Statistical Conference/Institution of Mathematical Statistics Annual Mtg. 2014

In 2014 the Statistical Society of Australia will hold its biennial Australian Statistical Conference in conjunction with the IMS Annual Meeting. The Conference, to be held from 7-10 July 2014, "will provide opportunities for presentations on a wide range of topics and recognises the role that statistics plays in all aspects of modern life." Topics of interest cover all aspects of the use of and development of statistical methods, including spatial statistics, Bayesian statistics, computational and asymptotic statistics, sample surveys/methodology, stochastic/statistical modelling, biostatistics, multivariate statistics, probability, mathematical statistics, econometrics and financial statistics, environmental statistics, genomics and forecasting. The venue for this meeting is the Australian Technology Park in Sydney. For further information see the website: <http://www.ims-asc2014.com>.

— Sally Galbraith

Austrian-Swiss Region (ROeS)

The ROeS 2013 Conference was held at the Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences in Dornbirn, Austria from September, 9th to 12th, 2013. The conference was organized by Sabrina Neururer, local organizer, and Hanno Ulmer, ROeS President, from the Department of Medical Statistics, Informatics and Health Economics of the Medical University of Innsbruck.

A total of 120 participants from 16 countries attended the conference. The President-Elect of the IBS, John Hinde, gave a welcome address. The scientific programme consisted of 23 sessions with 36 invited and 42 contributed speakers, including a poster session. The session topics were grouped into (1) clinical trial issues with a special focus on flexible and adaptive designs, (2) general statistical methods such as survival analysis, (3) epidemiology covering growth curves and genetic epidemiology and (4) risk prediction models.

There was also a special session organised for young scientists. In this session, young statisticians from Austria, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland presented their research work. This year the traditional Arthur Linder Prize was awarded equally to Regina Riedl from the Medical University of Graz and to Florian Klinglmüller from the Medical University of Vienna.