

# REGION & GROUP NEWS

## GERMAN

The Institute of Statistics of the University of Munich as local organizer invites you to join the 1997 meeting of the German Region of the Biometric Society which will take place in Munich, March 18 - 21, 1997.

In co-operation with the Institute of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology of the Technical University of Munich, the Institute of Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology of the University Munich and the Forschungszentrum für Umwelt und Gesundheit we are looking forward to a scientifically exciting program with quite a large number of invited and contributed papers.

Several Topics are planned. These are among others: On-line Monitoring and Adaptive Designs, Multivariate Analysis of Survival Times and Event Histories, Errors-In-Variables and Incomplete Data, Methods and Ethical Aspects of Risk Assessment, Environmental Risks, Graphical Markov Models, Nonparametric Methods in Factorial Designs, Statistical Methods in Pharmaco-Economics, Unbalanced Data in Mixed Linear Models, Model Selection and Resampling.

Conference chair: **Ludwig Fahrmeier**, **Nanny Wermuth** (President of the German Region), **Kurt Ulm**.

Program Committee: Heiko Becher, Guido Giani, Alfred Hamerle, Marlis Herbold, Guenter Herrendoerfer, Reinhard Hilgers, Goeran Kauermann, Lothar Kreienbrock, Helmut Kuechenhoff, Rupert Lasser, Jochen Mau, Albrecht Neiss, Wilhelm Sauerbrei, Erich Schumacher, Helge Toutenburg, Karl Ueberla, Kurt Ulm, Karl Wegscheider.

If you are interested in joining the conference we will be happy to welcome you in Munich next year.

You can get further information and the registration form from the local organizing committee:

Iris Pigeot  
43. Biometrisches Kolloquium  
Institute of Statistics, University of Munich  
Ludwigstrasse 33, 80539 Munich, Germany  
Information is also available on WWW:  
<http://www.stat.uni-muenchen.de/bio97/>

## AUSTRALASIAN

**Murray Aitkin** will shortly conclude his five-year appointment as Australian Research Council Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Mathematics, University of Western Australia. He has been appointed to the Chair of Statistics at the University of Newcastle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK.

The Australasian Region biennial Meeting will be held December 1-4, 1997. The tentative conference venue is a resort south of Adelaide, the capital city of South Australia. The organising committee is looking forward to a vibrant conference in very pleasant surroundings.

The two main themes will be **Statistics in the Environment and Mixed Models**. The latter is intended to draw together all areas of biometry, the medical, agricultural and environmental applications of statistics, including computational aspects. These major themes will be reflected in the invited speaker programme.

Full conference details will soon be available at the web site, <http://www.adl.dms.csiro.au/biometrics97>

*Glenys Bishop,  
Temporary Australasian Correspondent*

## JAPAN

The Annual Meeting of the Japanese Region was held on April 25-26, 1996 at the Medical School, Keio University in Tokyo jointly with the Japanese Society of Applied Statistics. 267 biometricians and applied statisticians were attended from all over Japan. The abstract of the papers presented at the Meeting will be published elsewhere in the Bulletin. It was decided at the Meeting that JR donates US\$3,000 to the International Biometric Society for assisting biometricians in developing countries to participate the 18th International Biometric Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Japanese Journal of Biometrics, the official journal of the Biometric Society of Japan, is published biannually to promote the discipline: Vol 16, No.1,2 was issued in this year which contains two original papers and two preliminary reports all written in English. Any region or group interested in the journal may write to the editor A. Uesaka for the copy of the journal.

*Takashi Yanagawa  
JR correspondent*

## SPANISH REGION

The Spanish Region has been quite active during the past few months. It has organized courses and meetings, both national and international; it has set up a new Web page (<http://www.iata.csic.es/IBSREsp/>) and it has started a Biometry Section in the Spanish journal **QUESTIIO** (Quaderns d'Estadística i Investigació Operativa). The contributions to **QUESTIIO**, in English, French or any official language of Spain are welcomed!! They should be sent to:

**QUESTIIO**  
Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya  
Via Laietana 58  
08003 Barcelona  
Spain

The Statistics Department of the Cordoba University is organizing the "6a Conferencia Española de Biometría" in the second half of September 1997 in Cordoba. For more information contact: [ccjm@uco.es](mailto:ccjm@uco.es) or check the Web page.

The Spanish region had a large representation at the Eighteenth International Biometric Conference in Amsterdam last July. Amongst them were one invited lecturer, the organizer of one session and the authors of seven contributed papers. We all had a great time, together with members from other regions, at several dinners and excursions.

*Lupe Gómez  
Spanish Correspondent*

## OBITUARY



Prof. Dr. **F. X. Wohlzogen**, emeritus at the Institute for Medical Statistics at the University of Vienna died at July 2, 1995 at the age of 77 years after short, serious disease. He was born in Vienna in the year 1919, educated here and attained his doctorate of medical science at the University of Vienna in 1942.

He started his scientific career working in the field of physiology where he discovered the barbiturate effect in the electroretinogram. The many years' scientific work in Vienna was interrupted by longer stays at the department

of physiology at St. Mary's Hospital of the Medical School of London. There he was converted to the field of Medical Statistics. In the year 1969 he was appointed professor for Medical Statistics and Documentation at the University of Vienna but many years before he had taken over academic training and statistical consulting at the medical faculty. After 15 directorial years at the Department of Medical Statistics he retired in 1986.

The scientific work of F. X. Wohlzogen is determined by his pioneer contribution to the development of Medical Statistics in Austria and beyond the borders of the country. Extensively dealing with all-or-nothing-reactions in physiology he very soon came across the problem of sequential analysis recognizing that the saving of test units, for instance laboratory animals, represents a basic ethical demand to medical statistics. In scientific works back to the year 1954 he had already proposed grouped plans which represented, in addition to the original concepts of continuous testing after each individual by A. Wald, an essential step in the direction of practicability. It has to be pointed out that towards the end of his scientific work he contributed considerably to complex projects in which for instance models with random individual hazards were used, later known under the term frailty-models. His wide spectrum of research was characterized by an extraordinarily innovative potential. So he applied decision theoretic methods based on loss functions already early in the seventies.

F. X. Wohlzogen's approach to the field of medical statistics was always considerably characterized by never regarding statistical methodology as an end in itself but only as a way to improve medical research. He had the quality to make justifiable compromises which he held steadily against third parties. Already in the sixties he had planned and evaluated controlled studies with interesting designs, e.g., for combination therapies. He was one of the founders of the Austro-Swiss region (ROeS) of the International Biometric Society and served for many years as its secretary. He also has been president of the ROeS and organizer of the biennial Biometric seminar.

Personally, he was a modest and benevolent character with a strong individuality. His students, colleagues and the Biometric Society have lost a great pioneer, scientist and personality.

*Prof. Dr. Peter Bauer (Vienna) & Dr. Herwig Friedl (Graz)*