pling bias in epidemiology, mixed models in biostatistical research, applications of multivariate frailty models to model dependence in survival data, image analysis in forestry, non-parametric and semi-parametric methods in curve estimation, fisheries management under uncertainty, recent issues in clinical trials, spatial statistics and precision farming, modelling transmission in infectious diseases, statistical issues on gene mapping, interval censoring and current status data.

Merete Jørgensen

Spanish

On March 10-12, 1999 the Spanish Region of the IBS held its VII conference in Mallorca. It was attended by more than 100 participants.

The organization of this meeting was, for the first time, a bit different from other years, following some of the ideas of the International Biometric Conference. As usual, the meeting began with the opening conference "A walk through interval-censored survival data" by the new president of the Spanish Region, Dr. Guadalupe Gomez. Dr. Ingram Olkin from the Stanford University gave an invited talk entitled "Measures of Discrepancy between Treatment and Control". Four invited sessions were organized; the titles as well as organizers and speakers, were as follows:

- Spatial analysis, J. Ferrándiz, J. Angulo et al., J. Ferrándiz et al., M.D. Ugarte, A.F. Militino.

- Nonparametric techniques, W. Gonzalez Manteiga, C. Cadarso, C. Sánchez, P. García.

- Data analysis in psychological processes, J.L. Chorro, J.M. Tomás, R. Estarelles.

- Environmental statistics, M. Greenacre, B. Clark, T. Hastie.

The abstracts of most of the invited and contributed presentations can be found on the IBS Website at the following address: http://www.tibs.org/meetingabstracts.html

As it is customary in our conference a special plenary student session was held. The scientific level, as well as the oral presentation, of the five contributions was extremely high and the jury had a difficult task in choosing the best talk. Finally, the prize for the best student presentation was

shared between S.J. Bramardi (Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias) for his talk "Joint study of morphological and molecular data for the characterization of phytogenetic resources by means of generalized procrustes analysis (GPA)" and J.M Carot (Universitat Politècnica de València) for "Multivariate methods applied to research of blending in rose win from the controlled appellation Utiel-Requena (Spain).

There were of course other fun activities: A nice night walk through the beauty city of Palma, a reception in the Bellver castle, the splendid banquet and, finally, on Saturday, a few privileged had the opportunity of tasting one of the most delicious dishes of the island, la caldereta.

M. Luz Calle

SUSAN

Call for Papers

Special Issue of the African Journal of Environmental Assessment and Management

On the Theme
"Statistics for Environmental Assessment and Management in Africa"

EDITORS

PIERRE ANDRÉ
Département de géographie Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, succursale Centre-ville Montréal (Québec) H3C 3J7 CANADA
<andrep@ere.umontreal.ca>

SARALEES NADARAJAH
School of Mathematical Sciences University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD Royaume-Uni
<snh@pmn1.maths.nott.ac.uk>

SAGARY NOKOE
IITA, Ibadan, Nigiria, c/o IITA-Lambourn & Co. 26 Dingwall Road, Croydon CR9 3EE ROYAUME-UNI
<s.nokoe@cgiar.org>

Statistics is now used in day to day decision making, in formulating long and short term plans, and in unravelling mysteries of nature. Environmental statistics is growing rapidly because of the importance of statistics in environmental sampling and monitoring, spatial and temporal modelling, extreme values, environmental standards, etc.

The objective of this special issue of AJEAM is to highlight with examples the importance of statistics in environmental assessment and management in Africa. The issue will emphasise data interpretation and statistical methodology but will demonstrate how environmental theory and

practice can be better explained by the use of valid statistics.

Papers are invited that apply statistical methods in the identification, evaluation, prediction and in making decisions concerning possible effects of environmental events (caused by nature such as floods, droughts, etc.) and environmental actions (man-made activities) in Africa.

Specific topics include water related issues, pollution, forestry, population dynamics, risk and impact analysis, regulation and control, and waste management and monitoring.

If possible, data used in the paper should be provided or readers should be advised on how the data may be obtained. Simulated or artificial data sets should be identified as such.

Papers should address contemporary environmental issues in Africa. Case studies and applications are welcome. However, papers proposing new methods for general application can also be submitted for consideration if a special relevance to applications in Africa can be claimed.

Because of the intended readership - environmentalists with little statistical background - statistical methods should be carefully presented and well explained. The methods should be appropriate to the environmental problem.

Two copies of the manuscript (plus an electronic version) should be submitted to one of the editors listed above. Manuscripts may be submitted in either French or English. Accepted papers will be published in both English and French for a wider readership.

E-mail submissions are encouraged.

WNAR

The 1999 annual meeting of the Western North American Region of the International Biometric Society held June 27-30 in Seattle, Washington was a great success. The efforts of Scott Emerson, local arrangements chair, and Charmaine Dean, program chair, made for an exceptional meeting. In particular, the WNAR Presidential Invited Address given by Robert Tibshirani of Stanford University was entertaining as well as informative. A panel discussion titled "The Publishing Process: From Submission to Publication" allowed an unusual opportunity for junior and senior researchers to probe the mind-set of the editors of several statistical journals. The panel included: Jim Calvin, Executive Editor of Biometrics, Associate Editor of JASA and Associate Editor of Comm. In Stat.; Peter Guttorp, Editorial Board of Environmental and Ecological Statistics, and Associate Editor of Bernoulli; Bryan Manly, Editor of JABES; and Elizabeth Thompson, Editorial Board of The Annals of Statistics.

One final note, please remember that WNAR is the hosting region for IBC 2000, to be held July 2-7 in San Francisco, California. (See elsewhere in this Bulletin).

Marc Evans