

Population was discussed to explore the possibility of datamining in wide variety of biological information. In the session, the term, datamining was given much broader sense than ordinal, to investigate the possible new stage of biometrics. Twenty one researchers took part in the discussion. The list of the presentation in the session was as follows. Optimal correlation rule and its application (By G. Fukuda); What we can know from full-length sequence analysis of bacterial genome (By K. Kurokawa); Analysis of homeobox gene expression by 3D model (By S. Hatano); Analysis of invisible bacterial population structure in soil through information space (By K. Yokoyama); Limitation and possibility of computational modeling (By M. Hirafuji); Data-mining and mined data, A view point of an AI researcher (By Y. Tokunaga).

The JR decided to hold an International Conference on Statistical Challenges in Environmental Health Problems, on August 30- Sept 1, 2001 at Soft Research Park, Fukuoka City, Japan, as a satellite conference to the 53rd ISI2001 meeting held in Seoul, Korea. Details of the Conference will be announced in the future *Bulletin*.

*Takashi Yanagawa*

### Kenyan Group

A workshop on the Enhancement of Capacity in Applied Biometry in East and Southern Africa was held from December 7-9, 1999 at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was financed by The Rockefeller Foundation and was called at a time when there is an increasing urgency to improve biometric skills in developing countries to ensure that future agriculture research aimed at increasing food security and alleviating poverty is based on good statistical design. Representatives were drawn from national agricultural research institutes (NARI), university faculties of agriculture and university departments of statistics in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. There was also representation from other academic and research institutions including the University of Reading and Rothamsted Experimental Station, UK, Limburgs University Centrum (LUC), Belgium, University of Natal, South Africa, the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)

and ILRI. The workshop tackled several issues among them

- Current status of applied biometrics in NARIs and universities
- Strategies for improving biometrics training and support in both NARIs and universities
- Specific needs in the Region for developing biometric skills to support the changing approaches to agriculture research

At the conclusion of the workshop priority needs were identified and a number of activities put in place to address them. Notable among these is that the Department of Mathematics, University of Nairobi should become a regional center for biometrics training in the East and southern Africa Region. Funding proposals are now being developed to establish a curriculum and staff with the appropriate experience to lead a demand-driven training program to meet the needs of the Region. Group Kenya wishes to thank the Director General of ILRI for hosting the meeting and for the participation of the following in the workshop: Ms E. Allan (University of Reading, UK), Ms J. Riley (Rothamsted, UK), Mr. R. Coe (ICRAF), Prof. P. Janssen (LUC, Belgium), Dr. J. Lynam (Rockefeller Foundation), Dr. P. Njuho (University of Natal, South Africa) and Dr. A. Odulaja (ICIPE). Finally, the group wishes to thank Dr. Rowlands (ILRI) and Dr. Eley (ILRI) for organizing and running the workshop in a way that enabled it to achieve the intended objectives despite the varied ideas and opinions. The proceedings of the workshop are to be published by ILRI.

*Henry G. Mwambi*

### Group Nigeria

The first meeting of the group for the year 2000 was held on March 25 at the Nigerian Institute for Oil-palm Research (NIFOR), which was the institute where the first Nigerian trained biometrician. The meeting was preceded by a seminar on "Mixed Models: Theory-Methods-Applications" presented by Dr Sagary Nokoe, the Group Secretary. The seminar was well attended by NIFOR scientists, lecturers from the University of Benin, Ambrose Ali University and GNI members.

Group Nigeria now has an approved bylaw. This document could serve as a guideline to other groups that would

like to develop theirs as well. Groups that are interested could contact GNI secretariat by email: <S.Nokoe@CGIAR.ORG>

*Taiwo Adetola Ojurongbe*

### Spanish Region

The Spanish Region of the IBS has elected new members for its Regional Council. The new members are Eduardo Garcia from the Universidad de Oviedo (in the area of Psychology), M. Purificación Galindo from the Universidad de Salamanca (in the area of Medicine), Fernando López (in the area of Agriculture) and Juan Ferrandiz (in the area of Biology) for the period 2000–2003; together with M. Jesús Bayarri (in the area of Medicine), Juan Luis Chorro (in the area of Psychology), José Luis González (in the area of Agriculture) and Alex Sánchez (in the area of Biology) that were elected for the period 1997–2001. Emilio Carbonell and Guadalupe Gómez, as IBS Council members, will be members of the Regional Council for the next four years. The new Council has elected M. Jesús Bayarri from the Universitat de Valencia as Vice-president for the year 2000 and future President for the period 2001–2002, and Fernando Lopez-Santoveña as Secretary and Treasurer for the period 2000–2003.

The Statistics Department of the Public University of Navarra is organizing the 'VIII Conferencia Española de Biometría' that will take place in Pamplona from 28–30 of March, 2001. For more information see the conference website <http://www.unavarra.es/directo/congresos/apoyo/biometria.htm> or the home page of the Spanish Region: <http://www.iata.csic.es/ibresp/>

*M. Luz Calle*

### WNAR

President-Elect is Ed Bedrick of the University of New Mexico, Treasurer is Leigh Murray of New Mexico State University, K. C. Carriere of the University of Alberta and Chris Drake of the University of California at Davis were elected to the Regional Board. Along with these changes, Denise Roe of the University of Arizona becomes President and Scott Emerson of the University of Washington becomes Past President.

*Marc Evans*