

Society of Clinical Biostatistics, Trento, Italy. Scientific Secretariat: Prof. E. Marubini.

Email: <iscb2000@gelso.unitn.it>
Web: www.gelso.unitn.it/~iscb2000
www.iscb-homepage.org

The organization of two other courses is in progress. The first one on Statistical Methods in Genetics 2000, the second one on Survival Data Analysis. Places and dates are to be announced.

Giuseppe Matullo

KOREAN REGION



We had the first seminar of this year in the afternoon of March 31 at Room 407, School of Public Health, Seoul National University. Prof. Yongdai Kim (far left in the front row of the picture) at the Department of Statistics, Hankuk University of Foreign Study, talked on "Analysis of event history data from community randomization trials." Prof. Jae Won Lee (fifth from the left at the rear row), at the Department of Statistics, Korea University, and Ms. Hyo-Jung Lee (third from the right at the rear row), at Jong Keun Dang Pharmaceutical Co., jointly delivered a talk on "Statistical systems for the population genetics analysis of DNA evidence." Ms. Jeong Yeol Lee (the fourth from the left at the rear row) at Korea Data Network presented on "Review of the survey on the necessity of the legal amendment for the release of official statistics raw data." The seminar was followed by dinner and we celebrated the recent change from Group Korea to Korean Region (Rko), within IBS.

Byung Soo Kim
President of the Korean Region

MEDITERRANEAN

The new Eastern-Mediterranean Section of the IBS will be launched with a scientific conference. It will enable participants to hear about recent developments in the field of biostatistics, to get familiar with work currently undertaken and to

establish local modes of cooperation. It is hoped that the common interest in biostatistics will foster the spirit of cooperation between scientists from the region, for the welfare of all.

The meeting will be held in Israel, January 8-10, 2001, in Haifa. The tentative list of topics includes. Clinical trials, survival analysis, longitudinal studies, statistics in drug regulation, epidemiology, regional studies in air pollution and mortality, ecology of the Mediterranean Sea, and cancer.

More information: http://stat.haifa.ac.il/~emr_ibs

SPANISH REGION

On June 21, 2000, the Spanish Region of the IBS (SEB) together with the Epidemiological Spanish Society (SSE) organized a one-day meeting in Valencia around the theme: "Geographical Analysis of Risks. Meeting Point". The meeting created great hope with more than 60 participants.

The session began with a practical tutorial on Bayesian methods and Markov Chain Monte Carlo methodologies taught by Juan Ferrandiz from the Statistics Department of the Universitat de Valencia. Following the course, Guadalupe Gómez, President of the SEB, and Herme Vanaclocha, representing the SSE and Head of Public Health of the Autonomous Government of Valencia, officially opened the meeting with a short speech. They all underlined the importance of those activities devoted to further the relationship between professionals that work in central or closely related areas of Public Health. At the end of the morning there was an interesting poster session.

After an splendid lunch, there was a round table, moderated by Guadalupe Gómez (SEB) and Carmen Navarro (SSE). At the start some important questions about novel methods in spatial statistics were stated: There is no doubt about the usefulness of these methods for the geographical representation of health indicators and for related socioeconomic variables. However, the question is whether all the complexities the new technology entails are always necessary. Is their use a result of its novelty or of its usefulness? Which are their advantages and their drawbacks? Maribel Pasarín from the Institut Municipal de

Salut Pública de Barcelona, Lola Ugarte from the Universidad Pública de Navarra, María Jesús Bayarri from the Universitat de Valencia and Gonzalo López-Abente from the Centro Nacional de Epidemiología tried to answer all those questions. The conclusion of this exciting debate could be summarized with the broad opinion that the tools for geographical analysis are extremely useful in many epidemiological studies and that the complexity of these methods requires a narrow collaboration between epidemiologists and biometricians. The meeting ended with the intention of improving the relationship between both societies and with the need of being repeated.

I take this opportunity to inform about the preliminary program of the next Spanish Biometric Conference that will take place in Pamplona, March 28-30, 2001. The invited sessions are as follows: 1. Overdispersion in Biometrical Applications: M. Dolores Ugarte, Universidad Pública de Navarra; Charmaine B. Dean, Simon Fraser University and Carmen Fernandez, University of St. Andrews. 2. Special Topics in Survival Analysis: Guadalupe Gómez, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya; Stephen Lagakos, Harvard School of Public Health and Antonia Turkman, Universidad de Lisboa. 3. Psychology and Research: Eduardo Garcia Cueto, Universidad de

Oviedo; Jose Muñiz, Universidad de Oviedo and Dolores Riba, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. 4. Statistical problems in Animal Breeding: Emilio Carbonell, Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrària, Juan Altarriba, Universidad de Zaragoza and Agustín Blasco, Universidad Politècnica de Valencia. 5. Bioinformatics: Alex Sánchez, Universitat de Barcelona; Javier de la Cruz, Universitat de Barcelona and Roderic Guigó, Universidad Politècnica de Valencia.

For more details see the conference Web site: <http://www.unavarra.es/directorio/congresos/apoyo/biometria.htm>, or the home page of the Spanish Region: <http://www.iata.csic.es/ibresp/>

M. Luz Calle