

and 15 posters. Most of the papers have been published in the 35th volume of the *Biometrical Colloquium* (the official periodical of the Polish Biometric Society since 1970) together with the abstracts. The scientific discussions were enhanced by a very pleasurable weather, a warm fireplace and conference dinner. The credit for the excellent atmosphere of the conference is due to all the organisers, sponsors and participants.

Forthcoming Meeting

The next 36th International Biometrical Colloquium will be organized by Prof. Janusz Golaszewski from the Department of Plant Breeding and Seed Production of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, in the second week of September 2006. We encourage all biometricians to come to Poland, to give a lecture and to publish a paper in the biometrical volume, preferably in English.

More specific questions may be directed to Prof. Mirosława Wesolowska-Janczarek <mirosława.wesolowska@ar.lublin.pl>.

Zofia Hanusz

Spanish Region (REsp) Xth Conference of the Spanish Region

The Xth Conference of the Spanish Region was held at the University of Oviedo from 24-28 May 2005. There were more than 200 attendees, with 10 percent coming from several countries in Europe and South-America. All enjoyed the better than expected early summer weather in the city. The local organization was led by Eduardo García Cueto with the support from members of the University. They are all to be congratulated on the smooth running and success of the conference. The Scientific Committee chaired by Emilio Carbonell, member of the IBS Council, prepared an exciting program with six invited sessions, 15 parallel sessions, and 14 poster sessions. There was also a special session in memoriam of Juan Ferrándiz, member of the Regional Council between 1990 and 2003.

In the opening session, José Luis González Andújar and Joe Perry, presidents of the Spanish and British regions of the IBS addressed issues related to the spatial analysis in crop protection. The invited talks covered a wide range of topics, among them, Raúl Macchiavelli talked about "Applications of Non-Linear Mixed Models for Longitudinal Data in Plant Disease Monitoring," Luisa López discussed topics on epidemiology studies in behavioral research and Ramón Díaz-Uriarte gave an interesting talk on his experience as an applied statistician in the "Microarray World." Ordinary sessions included talks on data analysis in Psychology, time series, missing data, Genetics, mixed models, etc. The invited session on the role of the statistician in the empirical science journals had the interesting contributions of Brian Everitt, Mike



Conference participants

Campbell and Luis Segú giving a different perspective on what editors and readers of non-statistical journals expect. The poster session had more than 30 contributions while the good quality of the posters presented was enhanced by a wonderful wine and food tasting of local products.

Five papers were presented in the session dedicated to "Young Researchers." The award for the best student oral presentation was shared by Nuria Pérez-Álvarez, Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, Barcelona, for her talk on "Study of CD4 Cell Counts Dynamic via Univariate Summaries and Linear Mixed Models," and Paloma Botella, Universidad Cardenal Herrera, Valencia, for her talk on "Bayesian Inference for Infection Processes in Trees."

Special thanks go to all the people at University of Oviedo involved in the preparation and successful running of the Conference.

Maria Durban

Western North American Region (WNAR) WNAR/IMS 2006 Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting of WNAR will take place in Flagstaff, Arizona, USA at 7000 feet (2134 m)! The meeting will be held 27-30 June 2006 on the campus of the Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. Flagstaff is situated on the Colorado Plateau at the base of the majestic San Francisco Peaks and is 29 miles north of the Red Rocks of Sedona and approximately 87 miles north of one of the world's seven natural wonders, the Grand Canyon. Flagstaff and its surrounding region offer a multitude of tours and activities. The weather in late June offers typical high temperatures of 82° F (27 C) and low temperatures of 40° F (4 C).

The meeting will be held jointly with the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. Information can be found at the WNAR website at <<http://www.wnar.org/>>. Special thanks to the local organizer Roy St. Laurent. Additional information will be posted on the WNAR and conference websites as it becomes available.

2006 WNAR Student Paper Competition

WNAR sponsors students who enter the student paper competition with travel assistance and registration prizes. Papers must be submitted by 30 April 2006, to be considered for the competition. Papers may be submitted by current students and recent graduates (since 1 June 2005) of programs in the WNAR Region in biostatistics, statistics, or other applied mathematical fields having a biometric focus. The WNAR Region encompasses Mexico and areas in Canada and the United States west of approximately 104 degrees west longitude. Students registered at the 2006 WNAR/IMS Meetings are invited to attend the conference banquet free of charge. Details can be found at the WNAR website at <<http://www.wnar.org/>>. Special thanks to the Student Paper Competition Committee Chair Sarah Michalak of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Additional information on the 2006 WNAR Student Paper Competition, registration information and program details for the meeting will be posted on the WNAR website <<http://www.wnar.org/>> as they become available. We look forward to seeing you there.

Breslow Conference, 4 August 2006

A one-day conference on "Statistical Methods for Emerging Issues in Epidemiology and Observational Studies," in honor of Norman

Continued on p. 12